email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

Dennis Rodman lives up to bad boy image in Cebu



By Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau and Tonette Orejas PDI Central Luzon Desk CEBU CITY-BAD BOY. Whatcha gonna do? International basketball tar Dennis Rodman is not

DENINIS/ A7

Saturday, April 29, 2006

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Salceda on keeping of oil VAT: It'll be long hot summer

By Michael Lim Ubac and Christine O. Avendaño

IT'S GOING TO BE A LONG, HOT SUMMER OF

The failure to lift the value-added fax on petroleum products would "only aggravate the state of crisis" brought about by surging prices of crude oil in the global market, Albay Rep. Joey

Judge rebuffs Gonzalez

Court refuses to downgrade rape charges against 3 US Marines



FIRST APPEARANCE: The four accused in the Subic rape of a Filipina are arraigned at the Makati Regional Trial Court on Friday. (Above) STAFF SGT. CHAD CARPENTIER.



CPL. KEITH SILKWOOD



LANCE CPLS. DANIEL SMITH (foreground), DOMINIC DUPLANTIS (behind).

By Tarra V. Quismundo

A MAKATI JUDGE YESTERDAY HANDED JUSTICE Secretary Raul Gonzalez a stinging rebuff by refusing to downgrade rape charges against three of four US Marines, and the Americans added to the drama by refusing to enter a plea.

Judge Benjamin Pozon auto- said Pozon in his order. manically entered a not guilty plea for them during the American servicemen's first public appearance since they were accused of conspiracy in the rape of a Filipino woman at Subic Bay Preeport.

Kung puwede nga lang bugbugin yung mga taong yun (If only they could be beaten up)," a brother of the 22-year-old rape complainant told reporters on seeing the Americans.

Hours before the arraignment started, Pozon formally rejected as "devoid of merit" a government prosecution motion to downgrade the charges against three of the four defendants.

In his order, the presiding judge of the Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 129 insinuated that the motion smacked of interference in the court's independence.

"... This court is of the considered view that the motion's thrust is to induce the court to decide on the participation of the three accused US servicemen in the alleged crime of rape on the basis of evidence not yet presented before it but before the secretary of justice, which not only asks for the disregard of the requirements of due process, but also tends to erode the court's independence,"

Gonzalez raised a firestorm of protests earlier this month when he moved to downgrade the role of three of the Marines from principals to accessories, saying he found no evidence of conspiracy.

The 22-year-old alleged victim, whose real name has not been disclosed but has been identified in media only as "Nicole," was apparently not present in court to witness the proceedings.

Her lawyer, Evalyn Ursua, said . Nicole was just around the Makati City Hall's new building, where the hearing was held. Her mother and two brothers attended the proceedings.

The complainant's lawyers had denounced Gonzalez and women's rights groups accused him of "playing God" after he called for the downgrading of the charges against the three of the accused. Olongapo Prosecutor Prudence Jalandoni, also unhappy with Gonzalez's move,

withdrew from the case. The amended information filed by the prosecution team, adopting a Department of Justice resolution, sought to retain Lance Cpl. Daniel Smith as the lone principal.

The Marines have insisted only

Fr. Reuter presents 'other side' of the accused

By Volt Contreras

AS HE PUTS IT, AMERICAN PRIEST James Reuter, one of the country's most revered religious figures, considers "99 percent" of his time as spent for the spiritual uplift of Fil-

. Yesterday, the beloved Jesuit and prominent communicator of the lowas getting the other one percent.

pagrance at the arraignment in Makati City of four American Marines charged with raping a Filipino woman. He was there, he said, as a "spiritual adviser" of the accused.

The priest said he has been "say-

Reuter made quite a surprising Catholics-Lance Corporal Dominic Duplantis and Staff Sgt. Chad Carpentier-at the US Embassy building, where the soldiers have been held since November last

> The other accused, Lance Corporals Daniel Smith and Keith

cal Catholic Church showed who ing Mass twice a week" for two of Silkwood, are Protestants who the accused Marines who are are attended to by their own pastors, but "I always get to talk to them" on spiritual matters as well, Reuter said.

"They asked for a priest," Reuter recalled in an INCORER in-

He said it was Chris Rowen, an

captured in dawn-to-dusk anti-GMA plot Los Baños

By Marlon Ramos PD! Southern Luzon Bureau and Dona Z. Pazzibugan in Manila

CAMP VICENTE LIM-MILITARY and police intelligence agents yesterday arrested a close associate of former Sen. Gregorio Honasan and the latter's coaccused in the rebellion charges filed by the government for the failed July 2003 Oakwood mutiny.

Ernesto Macahiya, 64, the spokesperson of the Philippine Guardians Brotherhood Inc., was arrested by operatives of the Armed Forces of the Philippines Counter-Intelligence Group [AF-PCIG] at a store near a cockpit in Barangay San Antonio in Los Baños, Laguna, at around 3 p.m.

PNP spokesperson Senior Supt. Samuel Pagdilao said Macahiya would be presented to the media at 10 a.m. today by Army chief Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon and PNP Regional Director 4 Chief Supt. Prospero Noble.

"He did not offer any resistance," Senior Supt. Aaron Fidel, intelligence chief of the Calabarzon regional police office, told re-

Fidel said the arrest was covered by an arrest warrant for coup d'etat issued by Makati Regional Trial Court Judge Cesar Santamaria. Coup d'etat is a nonbailable offense.

"Macahiya was arrested after a series of follow-up operations. He was in transit and stopped by the

Gringo aide 'Oplan Manggagawa' details

By Tony S. Bergonia

MALACAÑANG WAS FURNISHED a copy of a document detailing a plot to unseat President Macapagal-Arroyo on May 1 involving the Left and the opposition, according to a well-placed source.

The two-page document was supplied by a member of the staff of an opposition senator, said the source, who asked not to be named for security reasons. He said he gave a copy to Brig. Gen. Delfin Bangit, head of the Presidential Security Group, and another copy to Norberto Gonzales, Ms Arroyo's national security adviser.

He said he received no feedback from the two officials on how they were viewing the leak.

The plot allegedly dubbed Oplan Manggagawa was to kick off at S a.m. of May 1, Labor Day, when militant groups are expected to march on Edsa "coming from the north and the east."

By 6:30 a.m., the groups expect to be dispersed from the Edsa Shrine where they are to assemble, the document said.

"After dispersal, (the) groups are instructed to reorganize in front of the municipal hall SJ (San Juan)," it said.

San Juan is a known bastion of

ousted President Joseph Estrada, who is on trial for plunder and whose release is being demanded

by his supporters. At about 7:30 a.m. of May 1, when the groups are expected to be in San Juan, "all entry/exit points leading to the municipal hall will be closed," the document said.

It said members of militant labor groups coming from the Waterous Hospital, the San Juan Medical Center and a Pinaglabanan warehouse" would "join forces with laborers in [the] municipal hall to guard militant groups and lincoming police and



FLIGHT CONTROL President Arroyo checks out the cockpit of a C-130 cargo plane of the Philippine Air Force, which was overhauled and refurbished by a \$4-million US grant at the Clark Economic Zone. In a ceremony that included pouring champagne over the nose of the plane, US Ambassador Kristie A. Kenney turned over the aircraft to Ms Arroyo at Villamor Air Base on Friday.

Bishops, businessmen join Cory's anti-Cha-cha drive



ONE MORE TIME, From left, Bishop Antonio Ledesma, ex-Vice President Guingona, ex-President Cory Aquino, Sen. Drilon, ex-Sen. Vicente Paterno; (standing from left), Bayan's Renato Reyes, Akbayan's Ronald Liamas, Rep. Noynoy Aquino, Akbayan Rep. Etta Rosales, Rep. Francis Escudero, Mayor Binay, Rep. Erin Tañada, Cibac Rep. Joel Villanueva, party-list Rep. Renato Magtubo.

By TJ Burgonio and Juliet Labog-Javellana

THE BISHOPS-BUSINESSMEN'S CONFERence will be at the frontline of the multisectoral coalition moving to thwart Malacañangbacked efforts to change the 1987 Charter

Spurred by the Catholic bishops' "call to action," the BBC is mobilizing Catholic lay organizations to detail the "Cha-cha Express" at the parish level, according to former Sen. Vicente Ting" Paterno, who disclosed the group's action plan at the close of yesterday's launch of "STOP (Sa Tamang Oras at Paraan) Cha-cha."

"We will take the lead. We will take the initiative toward getting the Catholic lay organizations to come together and conduct information [on Cha-cha] at the parish level," Paterno, a member of the BBC executive committee, told reporters.

He named the Couples for Christ, Catholic Women's League and Knights of Columbus

BISHOPS/A8

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Mindanap will continue to experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rost of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or EVORING.
COMPLED BY, KATE PEDROSO, FOI RESEARCH/04/29/56

Partly Cloudy

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PLEA BARGAIN OFFER

59 Oakwood rebels to plead guilty

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

SOME 59 JUNIOR MAGDALO OFFICERS UNDERgoing court-martial for their alleged involvement in the 2003 Oakwood mutiny have offered to plead guilty to lesser charges.

The accused officers made known of their intention to enter into a plea bargain in a two-page handwritten letter which they signed and addressed to Armed Force Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga.

"They are most junior officers involved in the incident," Ruel Pulido, lawyer for the 59 defendants told reporters.

Military prosecutor Col. Pedro Davila welcomed the plea-bargain offer.

"It's a good sign. At least they're open to discussing [a plea bargain]," said defense lawyer Ed Abaya. Defense lawyer Theodore Te

said until yesterday "there has been no expression of openness" on the part of the prosecution to discuss a compromise.

The 59 Magdalo officers are on trial in military court on charges of mutiny unbecoming and undisci-

plined conduct, and disrespect to the president and superior officers.

The defendants' attorneys and prosecutors will hold negotiations over the next two weeks to determine how much time they will spend in jail.

Maj. Gen. Vicente Guerzon, who heads the military court, said that if both sides fail to agree, the trial would proceed on May 17.

The 59 junior officers are accused of seizing part of Manila's financial district on July 27, 2003 in a failed attempt to force President Macapagal-Arroyo and then defense secretary Angelo Reyes to resign. The mutineers surrendered after a 20-hour standoff.

Six other defendants have agreed to testify against their fellow officers.

Defense lawyers have tried to enter into a plea bargain for the iunior officers after successfully

We're not being used, says ABS-CBN

By Alcuin Papa

TELEVISION NETWORK ABS-CBN vesterday denied it was being used to air seditious statements by forces out to destabilize the Arroyo administration.

Maria Ressa, head of ABS-CBN News and Current Affairs division, told the INQUIRER that the network would never allow itself to be used

by sectors who are out to overthrow the government.

"ABS-CBN news strongly denies the DOJ's accusation that it was used by rebel forces to air seditions statements. ABS-CBN news will never allow itself to be used by anyone," she said.

Ressa, former Jakarta bureau chief of CNN, also said the network will continue defend the

public's right to information.

"We are accountable to the Filipino people who need complete, accurate and valuable information. And like Probe, ABS-CBN will continue to fight for a responsible but free and fearless press and defend every Filipino's right to know the truth."

Last week, TV news program "Probe" aired an interview with renegade 11t. Sonny Sarmiento, spokesman of a group calling itself the Makabayang Kawai Pilipino (MKP), in which he bared that they would "make their presence felt in the coming days."

The interview provoked a strong reaction from Justice Secretary Raul Gonzales who immediately ordered an investigation into the interview.

making a deal in May last year for the 184 enlisted personnel implicated in the mutiny.

Under the terms of the plea bargain, the soldiers pleaded guilty to the esser charges of disrespect and conduct prejudicial to good order and military discipline. In return they were demoted by three ranks and suffered a pay cut for six months.

Eleven Army soldiers who are still being tried for the mutiny are currently negotiating with military authorities so they can be re-

leased under the same plea bargain given to the 184 soldiers.

But the 29 alleged core leaders of Magdalo led by Lt. s.g. Antonio Trillanes IV and eight other officers are not covered by the plea bargain discussions.

What happened today concerns only this group of officers. There are two other groups that are not covered by what happened today," said Davila said, referring to Trillanes and other Magdalo core leaders.

The 29 Magdalo officers are still facing more severe charges including mutiny, which is punishable by life imprisonment or death.

At the resumption of the court-

martial yesterday, Pulido asked the court to postpone the hearings saying they want to discuss plea bargain with the prosecutors. Davila did not oppose the post-

ponement. Nine of the 59 junior officers

afterward talked to the court members headed by Guerzon.

Pulido said the "breakthrough" came shortly before yesterday's hearing started at 9 a.m., when defense lawyers discussed anew the idea of a plea bargain with the prosecutors who surprisingly told them to make a formal petition.

"Ever since the accused in this case have expressed their willingness to enter into plea bargaining. So today we were given the opportunity to formalize it. We took that opportunity," Pulido

97 Metro Manila universities, colleges seek tuition hike

By Alcuin Papa

AFTER OIL PRICES, IT'S TUTTION hikes.

Almost half of colleges and universities in Metro Manila are seeking increases in their tuition for the coming school year, the Commission on Higher Education (CHEd) said the other day.

CHEd chair Dr. Carlito Puno said 99 out of 270 private higher education institutions had applied for tuition increases but two later withdrew their applications.

There are a total of 292 public and private tertiary level schools in the National Capital Region.

But Puno said state colleges and universities will not increase nuition for the coming school

Out of the 97 schools, 55 wanted to increase tuition and other fees. Aside from raising tuition and other fees, 20 others want to introduce new fees. The rest only want to increase tuition, or fees related to their Medicines courses.

Of those schools which applied, 54 want to increase tuition above the 7.6 percent national in-

flation rate while 24 want to stay and get CHEd's approval. below the inflation rate.

Puno also said 35 applications for tuition increase above the 7.6 percent inflation rate have been forwarded to the CHEd Review Panel.

CHEd Memorandum No. 14 stipulates that schools raising tuition and other fees above the 7.6 percent inflation rate will have to go through public consultation

But increases below the 7.6 percent rate could bypass the requirement of public consultations and only need the approval of CHEd.

Puno said there have been exceptional cases when CHEd had to approve increases when the petitioners did not increase its tuition for the last three years. Another case was when the petition

for tuition increases was filed by the students themselves to improve school facilities or for salary expenses to get more quality teachers.

Militant students had blasted the CHEd memo saying it gave schools owners and administrators the right to unilaterally raise fees if the increase was less than the inflation rate.





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NEWSBRIEFS

Fake priest alert

A CARLO LAYSON INTRODUCING HIMSELF AS A priest is not a member of the clergy, the Archdiocase of Manila warned clerics and the public yes-

"He is not a Roman Catholic priest," Msgr. Roberto Canlas, the Manila See's chancellor, said in a circular addressed to the archdlocese's ciergy, religious women and school heads.

According to Canlas, Layson has claimed to belong to the Archdiocese of Capiz and had "misled a great number of our faithful by celebrating the sacraments."

He said the phony priest had presided over a wedding and had baptized several children without clarifying how Layson was able to undertake the rites unsuspected and whether the wedding and baptisms were invalid.

Canlas advised the clergy to always demand a celebret before dealing with people introducing themselves as priests. A celebre's serves as a priest's identification card and is signed by his bishop or archbishop.

Fake priests are not exactly a new problem for the Catholic blerarchy. About two years ago, the Philippine National Police warned against take "chaplains," rascals who used the title not only to celebrate sacraments but to gain money and favors the faithful. Christian V. Esquerra

Ver scores in court

THE SANDIGANBAYAN EARLY THIS MONTH denied the government's motion seeking summary judgment in its forfeiture case against Lt. Col. Rexor Ver, son of the late armed forces chief Gen. Fabian C. Ver. In a resolution released on April 11, the antigraft court held that Rexor is entitled to a fullblown trial to disprove the government's allegation that he acted as a dummy to help his father conceal the alleged ill-gotten wealth he had amassed during the administration of President Ferdinand Marcos, In its motion, the Presidential Commission on Good Government claimed that Rexor's plain denial that his properties "are not ill-gotten" is insufficient to overcome allegations that he allowed himself to be used as 'a dummy, agent or nominee' of his father. The court disagreed noting that that the defendant's answer raises a question of fact that can only be clarified during a trial on the merits of the case. The Vers fled the country with the Marcos family in 1986 following a military-backed people power revolution. Nelson F. Flores

'Hercules' back in action

A PHILIPPINE AIR FORCE (PAF) G-130 "HERcules" aircraft refurbished under a United States military grant was turned over to President Macapagal-Arroyo by US Ambassador Kristie Anne Kenney yesterday. Ms Arroyo and the ambassador poured champagne over the nose of the huge alreraft to celebrate the event held at the Villamor Air Base.. The C-130s are the Air Force's "main workhorse" for heavy lift missions. Some \$4 million was spent to repair the C-130, which the PAF purchased in 1983. With the turnover, the PAF now has three working C-130s, said Lt. Col.

Yes to Erap request

THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE YESTERDAY posed no objection to former President Joseph Estrada's motion asking for permission to attend his mother's 101st birthday on May 3 in his Polk Street residence in San Juan. The PNP said it is willing to provide security to the former president subject to the condition that he be returned to his detention house in Tanay, Rizal, Special Prosecutor Dannis VIIIa-Ignacio expressed no opposition to Estrada's request citing his soft heart for moth-

Labor leader shot

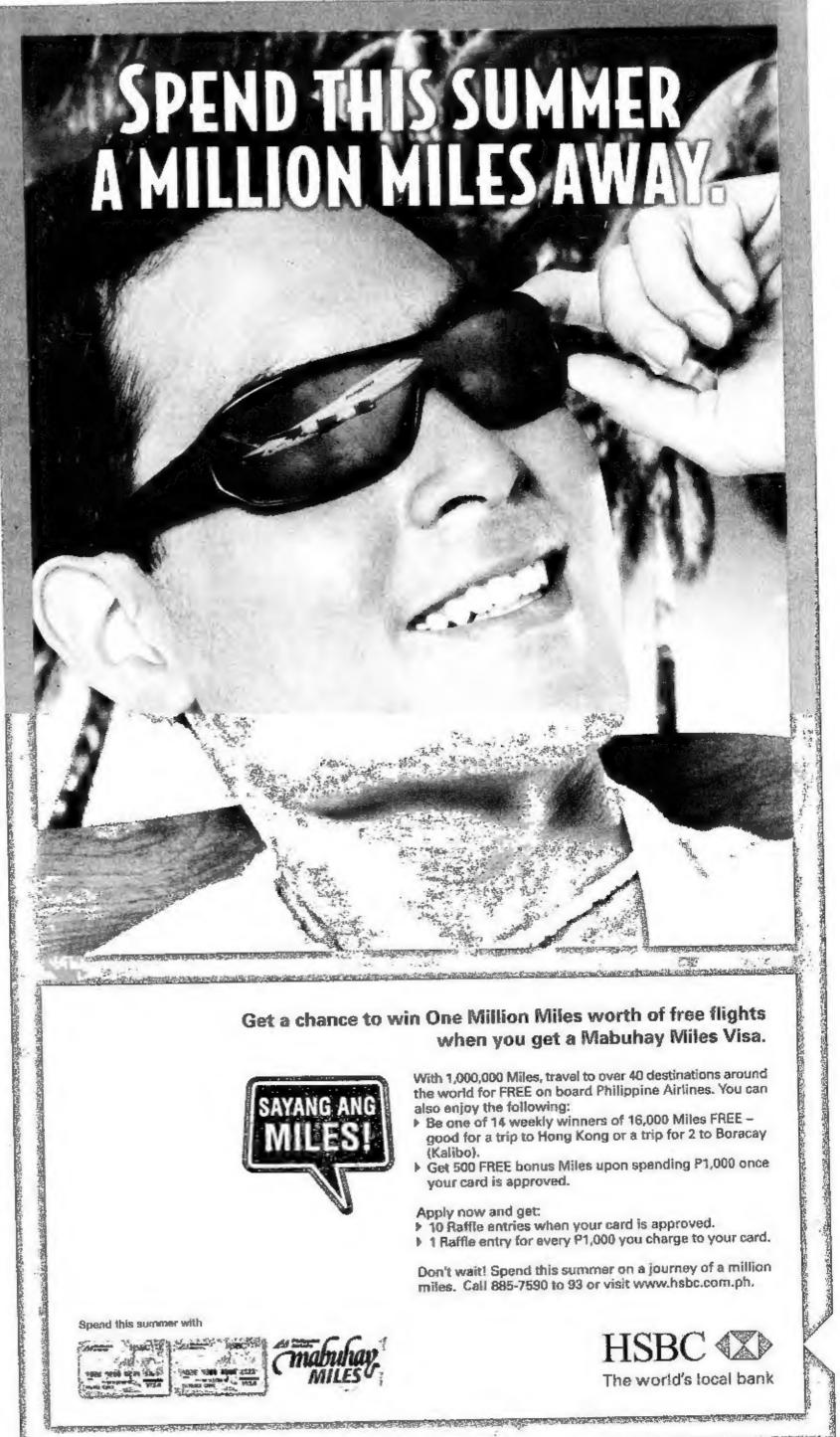
IMUS, CAVITE-A LEADER OF A LABOR group that heckled President Macapagal-Arroyo during her commencement speech in Cavite State University was seriously wounded in a shootout with police in Barangay Anabu here early morning Wednesday, Mililants claimed the incident was an attempt to assassinate the labor leader identified as Gerardo Cristobal, 34. Also wounded was SPO1 Romeo Lara of the Imus police station. Both are now in critical condition at the Our Lady of Pillar Hospital in Imus. The Solidarity of "Cavite Workers (SCW) quickly accused Cavite Gov. Erineo "Ayong" Maliksi as behind the supposed plot to kill Cristobal. At least seven members of the group hackled Ms Arroyo and raised banners calling for her ouster while she was delivering her speech in front of the graduates of CavSU last week. Maliksi vehemently danied the accusation. Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Romulo plans Burma trip

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA-THE PHILIPpines' foreign secretary said Friday he will likely visit Myanmar in June, but refused to confirm whather he would seek a meeting with detained pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi. Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo said Myanmar's military Junta has invited him to visit, but specific dates and details were still being worked out. "I will go probably In June," Romulo told reporters during a visit to Kuala Lumpur where he met with his Malaysian counterpart.

Meco trains OFWs

SOME FILIPINO WORKERS IN TAIWAN HAVE undergone training on entrepreneurship to help them put up their own businesses when they go home once their amployment contracts and. The Manlia Economic and Cultural Office (Meco) labor center and Talwan's Export Processing Zone Administration taught the workers the basic principles, tools and techniques on entrepreneurship as well as the assistance available from the Philippine government. Thirty-nine workers have completed the course that ran for three Sundays in Nantze, Kaohslung City.



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'Oplan Manggagawa' details anti-GMA plot Gringo aide

AFP (Armed Forces) from the government side."

Step by step

Also according to the document: At about 8:30 a.m., "all laborers are [expected to be] in place."

 At 9 a.m., five senators and partylist representatives now collectively known as the Batasan 5 will "publicly call for Are Glo (Ms Arroyo) to step down and announce that they will hold a vigil until [she] steps down.

They will "call (for) support from the

people."

The Batasan 5 are Representatives Satur Ocampo, Teddy Casiño, Liza Maza, Rafael Mariano and Joel Virador. They are facing what they called trumped-up rebellion charges.

 Senate employees and the Marines assigned to guard the chamber are expected to immediately express support.

 The Batasang Pambansa will be "reinforced by militant groups and also Marines securing the premises." "Marines are instructed to secure the

ate and House of Representatives)." · At 10 a.m. people, including "religlous groups," are to mass at the Senate. House and San Juan municipal hall.

premises, especially the armory. Snipers

will be deployed in both buildings (Sen-

Armed assault

At about the same time, an armed assault on Camps Crame and Aguinaldo led by the Special Action Force and soldiers from San Juan is expected to start.

Target completion [for the assault] will be 1100 hr," the document said.

By noon of May 1, the AFP chief of staff and the chief of the Philippine National Police are expected to announce withdrawal of support from the President, it said.

"If they resist, they will be relieved by the people," said the document.

It was not clear how this would be done. At 1 p.m., the Batasan 5 will be "transported" to the Senate to "join the senators," the document said.

GE Appliances

Labor groups to defy Atienza

MILITANT LABOR GROUPS YESTER- preempt legitimate protests and foday announced plans to defy Manila Mayor Lito Atienza's warning that the historic Mendiola Bridge was a "norally zone," and vowed to march there on Labor Day.

The Solidarity of Unions and Labor Organizations for a New Government (Sulong) said its planned 300,000-strong nationwide protest would underscore the people's right to peaceful assembly.

Sulong, which includes the Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino, Partido Manggagawa, Alliance of Progressive Labor, and Alliance of Genuine Labor Organizations, said it would march to Mendiola despite the Manila government's prohibition amid reports that extremist groups were planning to sow violence on May 1.

"The government is cooking up a scenario of violence on Labor Day to

ment fear among the public," said Sulong spokesperson Padjo Valdenor.

"This is a worn-out tactic practiced by the police to give them an alibi to prevent workers from marching toward Mendiola, or worse, a scapegoat to blame for violent acts of their own making," he said.

Another militant labor group, the Kilusang Mayo Uno, said that along with its affiliates, it would assemble at 10 a.m. in various parts of Manila before holding a program at the Liwasang Bonifacio at 1 p.m.

It said former Vice President Teofisto Guingona and Ma. Theresa Pangilinan, the Cavite State University mass communication graduate who heckled President Macapagal-Arroyo during her speech at the commencement ceremonies, would be part of the program.

"Tanks and APCs (armored personnel carriers) will proceed to the Senate to secure the premises," it said.

At 3 p.m., "Army and Marines will take over Malacañang with Air Force contingent and get Are Glo and Cabinet as prisoners," the document said.

At 5 p.m., "if God permits, we will declare victory and will have a new interim president," it said without identifying who this would be.

The document said that at least 5,000 people would be mobilized "per command center."

"If not reached, laborers will be coming in starting April 16 to be able to get in without a trace," it said, adding:

Sleepers will be planted inside administration for advance information re counter measures."

Asked whether the administration was taking the purported plot seriously, Michael Defensor, the President's chief of staff, said some points in the details were present in

past attempts to unseat Mis Arroyo. One of these, he said, was the withdrawal of support by the police and military chiefs.

"That's really their (the plotters') style because they don't want blood-

shed," he said, adding: "They learned from the mistakes of [former senator] Gringo [Honasan] whose adventures in coup [attempts] were failures.

They realized that what you need ito unseat the President] was just the support of the chiefs of the major service commands [of the AFP]."

Another point in the purported plot that Defensor said he found logical was the transfer of the Batasan 5 to the Senate.

"That's a right thing to do, if I were to start a fire," he said. "I will not discount

that possibility." Defensor said that while he did not find incredible the purported plan to start a vigil at the Senate, he thought it would not work.

"Mabulok sila doon (Let them waste their time there)," he said.

On the supposed planned assault on Camps Crame and Aguinaldo and Malacafiang. Defensor said that while he doubted that the plotters would be bold enough to launch it, "we just can't ignore it."

If it involves an armed component, that has to be taken seriously," he said.

CHR monitoring team

The Commission on Human Rights will deploy monitoring teams on May 1 to ensure police compliance with the Supreme Court ruling that deemed the government's calibrated preemptive response policy unconstitutional.

CHR chair Purificacion Quisumbing said the teams, identifiable by their shirts and tags, would be on the streets to record the protest actions and serve as a reminder to antiriot police to respect the rights of demonstrators.

The CHR will be there on May 1. [The monitoring teams] will be there as a preventive effect," Quisumbing said at a press briefing yesterday.

She said the monitors themselves would assist the protesters in filing charges against police who would violate their rights during the Labor Day railies.

Addressing the police, CHR Commissioner Dominador Calamba said: "Don't hurt the protesters. If they hurt you, arrest them, but it doesn't mean you have to beat them up.

"If they run when they are dispersed, don't go after them or hurt them to avoid chaos ... Handcuff them if necessary, but if possible, no tear gas or water cannons . That is maximum tolerance."

But Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said the government would not hesitate to reimpose Presidential Proclamation No. 1017-which placed the country in a weeklong state of national emergency last February if the May 1 rallies reached the level of the bloody "Edsa Tres" uprising on May 1, 2001. With reports from Jerome Aning and Jerald Uy (trainee), Blanche S. Rivera, Armand Nocum and Luige A. del Puerto

store to buy something. The intelligence group of the AFP had been tailing him for some time now," Fidel told the INQUIRER.

Fidel said Macahiya had been moving from one place to another on board his Isuzu Cross-

Macahiya was nabbed a few kilometers away from his residence in Barangay Calo, Bay town. He was turned over to the Philippine National Police Region IV headquarters in Camp Vicente Lim in Calamba City where he is now detained after five months of hiding.

I'm innocent'

Speaking to reporters here, Macahiya said he did not resist arrest and was ready to fight it out in the legal arena.

"As I've said in my past interviews, I am innocent of the charges filed against me ... Given a fair chance to defend myself officially in court, I feel confident that I would be acquit-

Macahiya questioned the timing of the release of the arrest warrant which was issued a few hours after President Macapagal-Arroyo, declared a state of emergency last February.

Macahiya was charged with rebellion by the Department of Justice before the Makati Regional Trial Court last Feb. 25 along with Honasan and five others for allegedly conspiring with junior officers who staged the July; 2003 Oakwood mutiny.

They were accused of inciting 300 soldiers to take over the high-rise apartments in Makati's financial district in an attempt to force President Arroyo to step down.

The PGBI is one of the many factions of the Guardians, a fraternity of active and retired members of the military and police. Honasan is identified with the PGBI faction.

Not a military man

Contrary to earlier reports, Macahiya is not a retired colonel like Honasan. He is known to be a banker by profession.

Macahiya himself had admitted that hel was never part of any military or police orga-Eduardo Matillano, then chief of the po-

lice's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, had identified Macahiya as a retired Although not a member of the military, Macahiya is known to have organized chap-

ters of the PGBI in Laguna. Macahiya, Honasan's "brod" in the Alpha Sigma fraternity, also helped the former Army

colonel's senatorial campaign in 1995. Honasan, who has a P5-million bounty for, his capture, went into hiding shortly after an arrest warrant was issued against him for allegedly masterminding the Oakwood mutiny.

5 other accounts

Aside from Honasan, the government had also put up a P1-million reward for retired Navy Capt. Felix Turingan; P500,000 each for retired Col. Virgilio Briones and Col. Romeo Lazo; and P250,000 each for PGBI secretary general George Duldulao and Lina Reyes.

Briones, Lazo, Turingan, Duldulao and Reyes were earlier charged with conspiring! with the junior officers who took over the posh Oakwood Premier apartment-hotel in Makati City to press for Ms Arroyo's ouster. Matillano had said that Macahiya, Reyes,

Duidulao, Briones and Lazo "and other unidentified leaders and members of PGBI" led the PGBI contingents that tried to get to Oakwood in Makati on July 27, 2003.

Over 100 members of the 500,000-strong PGBI, who trooped to the Oakwood, were later identified by the government as the "civilian component" of the failed mutiny.

Honasan was among the 48 persons charged with rebellion earlier this week by the DOJ for an alleged power grab plot last

In an interview with the Inquires somewhere in Southern Tagalog on Monday, Macahiya said Honasan would never surrender.

Macahiya also said the rest of their group would never allow themselves to be arrested. But he revealed that the former Army

colonel, who staged a series of coup d'etat against the Aquino administration, had entered into back-channel talks with the government regarding the rebellion and coup d'etat charges filed against him.

Like Honasan, Macahiya has been in hiding since the Makati RTC issued an arrest warrant last Feb. 25 for the coup d'etat case filed against them in connection with the Oakwood mutiny.

Macahiya said he had been moving from place to place to avoid arrest although he remained in constant communication with Honasan through mobile phone. With Reuters

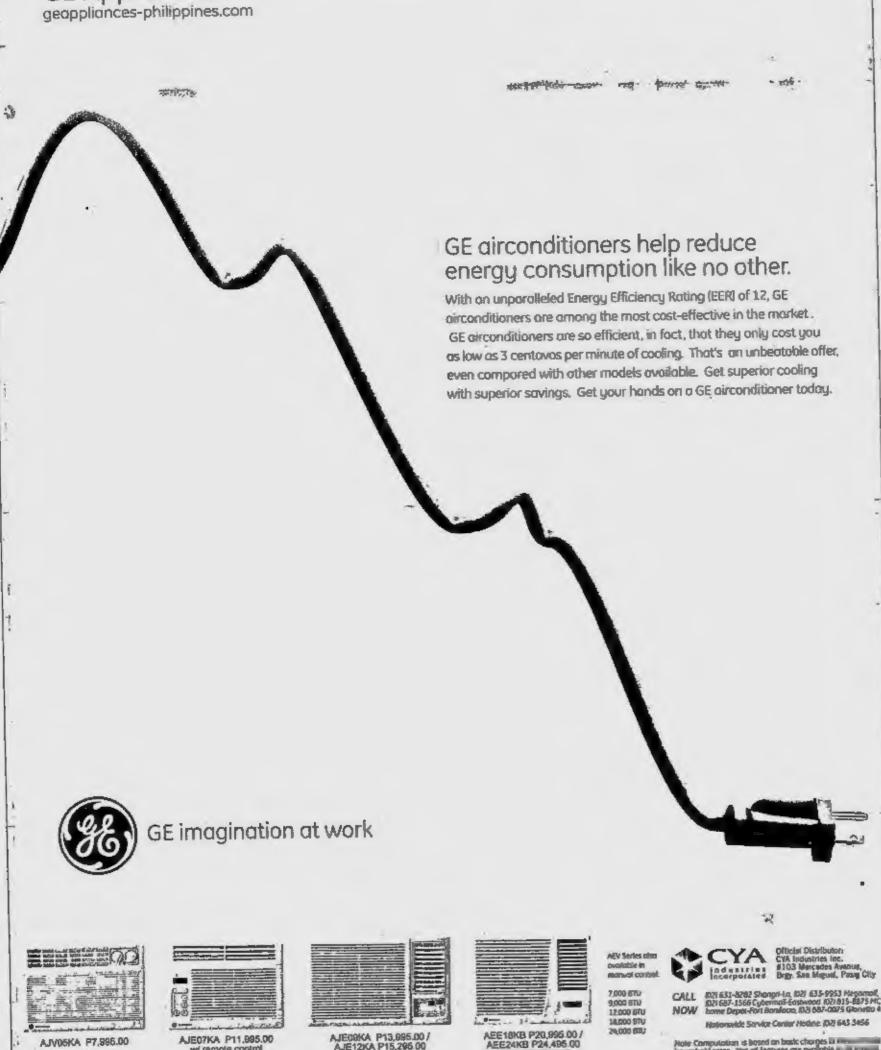
Correction

IN YESTERDAY'S issue, a story on Page A7-"Tatad's beef vs Davide 'noted -misstated that former Vice President Teofisto Guingona declined his appointment as ambassador to China after he had a failing out with President Macapagal-Arroyo. Guingona actually accepted the post but resigned in July 2005-just a few months after Ms Arroyo named him ambassador in January 2005.

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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Salceda ...

From page A1

Salceda said.

Salceda, chair of the House appropriations committee, yesterday insisted that a suspension of the 12-percent VAT on oil until December was a "proportional response to the plight" of ordinary workers.

"The lifting is time-bound and would automatically revert [once the crude oil stabilizes at \$65 per barrel]. The revenue loss is compensable by postponing Executive Order No. 366 [government reorganization] and the fiscal space from P38 billion savings," he said.

On Wednesday, the Cabinet decided to lower oil import tariffs to cushion the impact of high crude prices and keep the government finances on track, formally junking the idea of shelving VAT on petroleum products.

Obviously hurt by Malacañang's decision to throw out his proposal, Salceda said: "No, I mustn't envy them but I must stave off further damage on the President and on the people from them. I have learned to ignore the ignorable."

He said the oil summit called by Malacafiang "simply proves my point-it's an apparent reaction prompted by fears of silent rage. And that summit came up with the things that would ease the intellectual miseries of [Press Secretary Ignacio] Bunye."

Unkind truth

The decision of the Cabinet was an "unkind truth," said Salceda, one of President Macapagal-Arroyo's economic advisers.

He pointed out that 146 congressmen shared his assessment.

"These congressmen listen to the people who elected them. It's our duty to faithfully articulate their views and feelings on the current state of affairs," he said.

Salceda was referring to 146 of the 236-member chamber who had already signed a resolution he authored favoring the temporary VAT deferment.

Silent rage

In lieu of a law repealing the expanded VAT, the House, with the agreement of the Senate, could swiftly adopt a joint resolution asking the executive to defer its implementation.

House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles said the resolution would only seek the lifting of the VAT on oil for a given period, so there was no need for another law.

In a speech she delivered in Bacolod City, . Ms Arroyo said the "best" option of the govemment to ease the impact of higher oil prices was to reduce the tariff on petroleum products. With Alcuin Papa and Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

Dennis Rodman lives up to bad boy image

about to shed his bad boy image, wherever he may be in the world.

Although he was given the best in Filipino hospitality, Rodman was obviousnot enjoying his visit here Thursday and snubbed the media.

Rodman was with the other National Basketball Association (NBA) "legends" for the "Bad Boy Tour" of the Philippines, and played against the San Miguel All Stars at the Mandaue City Sports Complex on Thursday evening.

As expected, the NBA Legends team easily won the game, 124-94, against the San Miguel All-Stars.

People, however, did not talk about the game as much as they talked about Rodman's sullen behavior that, Cebu officials said, was clearly noticeable the moment he stepped out of the plane from Manila at the Cebu-Mactan International Airport.

Eats banana wrapper

Rodman's foul mood was made worse by the fact that he are budbud, a local delicacy of steamed sweetened rice cake wrapped in banana leaves, without knowing that he had to unwrap it first.

He had bitten half of the budbud and was already chewing it when he realized his mistake and spat it out. Rodman's face showed no reaction although there were amused smiles and laughter all around.

"No one knew if he was angry or not," said Cheryl Ouano, chair of the Mandaue City Sports Commission.

Ouano explained that Rodman together with the NBA legends paid a courtesy call on Mandaue City Mayor Thadeo Ouano.

Rodman was left behind in the mayor's office, while the other players were brought to the conference room for a snack. Ouano said she immediately briefed the NBA stars on how to eat the delicacies being served.

Very hungry

The NBA stars, she said, were laughing because they could not pronounce some of the names of the food. When Rodman arrived at the conference room, he took the budbud and ate

it-wrapper and all. Quano said she had no time to explain to Rodman how to eat the delicacy. He seemed very hungry, perhaps because it was already past lunchtime.

but Rodman was already chewing the

After the incident, Rodman went straight to the Waterfront Hotel and did not join the group for the hunch and press conference at Yo Latino, an upscale restaurant also owned by the Quano family.

Ouano said that before the budbud incident, it had been difficult to appreach Rodman because he looked withdrawn and serious.

She said Rodman could just be tired from his flight from Manila which had been delayed-and wanted to rest for his scheduled game in the

But sports reporters covering the game said Rodman did not stop scowling and was clearly in a foul mood.

Father wants reunion

Photojournalists who tried to take his picture were blocked by his body-

In Angeles City, Rodman's father, Philander, also wants to see his son. The two have been estranged for more than

ASK YOUR DOCTOR ABOUT PFIZER'S SULIT MEDICINES TODAY.

Philander first attempted to reunite

"I said, "Wait! wait!" Ouano recalled, with basketball's bad boy nine years ago and failed. Now 65, the old man wants another shot.

The Inquires caught up with him on Thursday at noon, drinking with three Pields Avenue habitués in a store run by ex-bar workers in Angeles City. He wore a red-and-white 'jersey emblazoned with his son's Chicago Bulls No. 91.

"I would really try to see him this time," he sald, teary-eyed and voice cracking.

Philander retired from the service in 1977, remarried Paz, a Filipina, and settled in Angeles City.

"I did not abandon him"

He said he first tried to reunite with his son in Chicago on his 57th birthday on Feb. 11, 1997. He claimed he did not abandon Rodman, a son from his first

"I did not leave him or his mother (Shirley). I was in the military and she did not want to come with me to my assignment in the Philippines. Then she put bad things in his head," Philander

Rodman, born on May 13, 1961 in frenton, New Jersey, was 4 years old when Philander moved to Clark in 1965.



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MEANWHILE, the scene outside the Makati courtroom quickly fills up with colorful banners with matching language carried by women **BEN ZAMORA**

Judge rebuffs Gonzalez

one of them had sex with the woman and that it was consensual.

Expunged from records

It had sought to downgrade the charges against the three others: S/Sgt. Chad Carpentier and Marine Lance Corporals Keith Silkwood and Dominic Duplantis.

The DOJ resolved that the three should be classified as accessories as they did not directly take part in the alleged crime but were only present when it occurred.

A principal may be sentenced to a maximum penalty of life imprisonment. Accessories are liable to up to 20 years in jail.

With Pozon's order, the court would retain the original criminal complaint, in which all four Marines stand as principals.

Pozon also ordered that the amended information be "considered expunged" from court records.

Woman with bandana

Nicole has accused the Americans of raping her on board a cruising van inside the Subic freeport zone last Nov. 1.

Smith and his alleged coconspirators-entered the packed courtroom in civilian clothes accompanied by several Americans believed to be US Embassy staff.

The Marines, who have been in custody of the embassy, sat on a bench on the left side of the room facing the judge.

The rape victim's mother arrived with a woman whose head was covered with a bandana, partly obscuring her face. It was unclear if the woman was the victim.

'Justice for Nicole'

Journalists and photographers, who were not allowed inside the courtroom, had to peer through glass panels to see the proceedings inside the courtroom.

Only five media members were allowed into the courtroom.

About two dozen members of the women's group Gabriela picketed the courthouse, with placards saying, "Justice for Nicole," "Jail the Yankees" and "Rage Against Rape."

'Legal strategy'

"We didn't enter any plea because if we did, we would have waived our right to question the order of the court denying the amendment of the information," said Jose Justiniano, lawyer of Silkwood.

Gonzalez says court action will weaken case vs 3

By Armand N. Nocum

JUSTICE SECRETARY RAUL GONZALEZ yesterday warned the rape case against three of four US Marines could weaken after a Makati court threw out a justice department resolution downgrading them from principals to accessories to the crime.

Gonzalez also said there were two possible defense witnesses who could "destroy" the case of the rape complainant but that the witnesses were not willing to come out with their testimony.

Asked whether the decision of the judge to retain Keith Silkwood, Dominic Duplantis and Chad Carpentier as principals would affect the case, Gonzalez said: "I don't think there's any evidence on that. If there was an iota of evidence that could make them principals, I would not have hesitated to downgrade them to the level of accessories.

"I don't believe there's a case against them (Silkwood, Duplantis, Carpentier) as principals. There's a cape case against them, but not as principals. There are two credible witnesses who will destroy this case, if these two people will testify," he said.

He also said that defense lawyers planned to elevate the matter before the Court of Appeals.

But he said it would not affect the oneyear trial period provided under the Visiting Forces Agreement, which only applies to the trial period following arraignment.

He took exception to the Makati judge's claim that the DOJ resolution recommending downgrading of the charges could affect the court's independence.

The court has not acquired jurisdiction over the case yet," adding that the judge "should know that a resolution of the fiscal will always be brought to the secretary of

Rene Saguisag, one of the complainant's private lawyers, said: "I guess that's the better tactical approach ... I cannot blame them. I think they will raise all possible defenses available under the laws of the land. That's their professional and ethical duty," he said.

Justiniano said he would raise an appeal against Pozon's order before the Court of Appeals and he believed the court overstepped its functions.

SWAT escorts

Ursua said her group was happy with the court's decision.

"We proved that Gonzalez's resolution was wrong ... They (defense) cannot stop the process. The process has started and it will continue," said Ursua.

Clad in casual attire, the four accused arrived at 2:30 p.m., a half hour late for the hearing. Escorted by members of the Makati Police Station's Special Weapons and Tactics team, they were allowed to use the building's special express elevator-used only by city of-

ficials, judges, city prosecutors and other VIPs-to reach the courtroom.

Just like any accused, the look of uncertainty is manifest in their faces, they really do not know what their future will be," said Undersecretary Zosimo Paredes, executive director of the Presidential Commission on the Visiting Forces Agreement.

Ursua had a different impression of the

"They looked like the usual Marines who had no expression. We need to break stereotypes and myths here because if you look at them, they look very tame, but we all know what they did," said the lawyer.

'Don't be fooled by looks'

"The public should know that they look like tame puppies, but don't forget that they raped and abused a Filipina, treated her like a pig, threw her on the road. That's what they did, Let's not be fooled by their looks," she continued.

The court set the next bearing on May 12 for a preliminary conference.

Bishops, businessmen join Cory's anti-Cha-cha drive

among the groups that could mount an information campaign for parishioners on the "truth" behind Charter change.

"On the basis of the information, we are confident that the parishioners would say no to Cha-cha," Paterno said. "When the time comes for a plebiscite or signature campaign, they can take the proper action."

The BBC is cochaired by Bishop Angel Lagdameo and businessman Ric Pascua.

The launch of STOP Cha-cha at Chib Filipino in San Juan saw certain participants demanding a more active role from the Church in the face of the huge resources being employed by the government in pushing Cha-cha. But Archbishop Antonio Ledes-

ma, vice president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, said Church leaders would keep off the political campaign.

He pressed the laity to "be at the forefront" by discerning the situation and taking concrete action.

But President Macapagal-Arroyo was unfazed. Speaking at the 16th National Convention of the Vice Mayors' League of the Philippines at the Bacolod City Convention Center, she urged local government officials to continue to back her in the push to amend the Charter for a shift to a parliamentary form of government.

Our political system is out of touch and leaving us behind the rest of Asia and the world whose parliamentary systems have done wonders to speed up their development," she told some 1,500 conference participants.

Commitment

Former President Corazon Aquino, former Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr., Senate President Franklin Drilon, lawmakers, businessmen, civil society and militant groups, and Cabinet members who quit last year at the height of the "Hello Garci" wiretapping scandal discussed ways to stop the "illegal, deceptive and immoral" people's initiative aimed at changing the presidential form of government.

They agreed to counter the administration's efforts with protest railies, concerts, road shows and a bawi-pirma (recall the signature) campaign nationwide.

"It's important that each of us here make a commitment. I have to make a commitment again and again because there are some people who refuse to listen," Aquino said at the open forum.

"I've been called many names, and somebody said, 'Cory, don't you think you should keep quiet now?' But I feel that while I can still stand up, while I can still talk, I should speak out and voice what's in my mind and in my heart. Otherwise, I should not call myself a Filipino," she said.

Asked if she was still calling for Ms Arroyo's resignation, Aquino said: That is included [in the campaign]."

To the streets

Drilon said the STOP Cha-cha campaign was also a means of preparation in case the Supreme Court revisited its 1997 injunction against a people's initiative and allowed it to be used to amend the Charter

The high court had earlier barred the Commission on Elections from verifying signatures, saying there was no enabling law for the use of a people's initiative.

Sigaw ng Bayan, a coalition of pro-Cha-cha groups, has been gathering signatures and submitting them for authentication.

Drilon said STOP Cha-cha would take to the streets if the Supreme Court gave the thumbs-

up to the people's initiative. The others who turned up for the launch of the coalition included Representatives Francis Escudero, Benigno Aquino III, Erin Tañada, Erta Rosales, Rene Magtubo and Risa Baraquel, "Hyart 10" members Corazon Soliman, Plorencio Abad, Imelda Nicolas and Teresita Deles, Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay and Lito Banayo of the United Opposition, University of the Philippines professor Randy David, Evelyn Singson of the Management Association of the Philippines, Marco de los Reyes of the National Union of Students of the Philippines, Ronald Llamas of Akbayan, Beatina Legarda of Bangon Pilipinas, Karen Tañada of the Gaston Z. Ortigas Peace Institute, and Guillermo Luz of the Makari Business Club.

just say the word

Representatives of the Black & White Movement, Be Not Afraid of Sen. Panfilo Lacson, and other groups were also present.

At the open forum, former Capiz

Assemblyman Dandy Tupaz said one surefire way to stop Charter change on its tracks was for the Catholic Church to openly order the

faithful "not to vote" for Cha-cha. "If the bishops will say, 'Don't vote or ride on the train of Gloria,' then this is dead," he said, eliciting ap-

plause from portions of the crowd. Ledesma, however, said the bishops were not given to making "political options" but only made statements "from the moral and pastoral dimension." "We have stated that it's really

the lay Christian that should be at the forefront-first by discerning the situation and then also moving for some concrete action to be taken," Ledesma said. If at all, the CBCP stand on the is-

sue is "a call for the Catholic faithful as well as men and women of goodwill to be involved in public affairs for the common good," he said.

Abad, a former education secretary, said the Church was the only institution that could match the government's "organizational reach" in the information battle over Cha-cha.

"We can't do this in Metro Manila. We have to go all the way to the villages, to the barangay. Apart from the military, the only other institution that has the reach is the Church," he said.

Be like Sin'

Addressing Ledesma, Abad asked up to what extent the CBCP would go to link bishops, parishioners and Church-based groups to counter the administration's vigorous push, which he said was gaining momentum.

The archbishop replied: "We have started our information drive on ... the people's initiative. I believe that in many dioceses, that has been started. And maybe with gatherings like this, there will also be an increase in [the activities] of Church-based groups."

To this, Tupaz said: "If the CBCP stand is ambivalent, nothing will happen to us ... At least be like [the late Jaime] Cardinal Sin who was at the forefront of the fight that removed the dictator [Ferdinand Marcos]."

At this point Paterno rose to defend Ledesma. "The CBCP is refraining from political actions; [it's] only making judgment on the moral issue. If we have to hide behind the bishops to take action, we should be ashamed of ourselves," Paterno said.;

Later, commenting on Tupaz's: call on the hishops to emulate Sin, Ledesma told reporters: "These are all entirely different situations, and in a sense, the bishops are trying to discern what's really good for the

Clearing the way In Bacolod, Ms Arroyo called on

her supporters to back Cha-cha.

"The rough and tumble of partisan politics have strained our path with obstacles, but you have shown in your support for me that we can act to clear the way and now to clear the way for fundamental change founded on the deep-seated aspirations of the people," she said. The President skipped mention of

STOP Cha-cha and focused on convincing her audience why the 1987 Constitution should be changed now. She said many countries had

adopted a political system that made them prosperous. "Let us join these developing and modernizing countries. Let us bring

the country and our political system to the 21st century," she said. She also thanked the vice mayors' league for its "commitment to

work on informing the people and facilitating discussion on this very important change that will bring the Philippines to the 21st century." "I thank you because you believe

and you have expressed that we must continue to ignore the noisy political flak being fired ar the ship of state, and you keep our sights on the prize of a better future," she said.

Protest caravan

But as the President was rallying the vice mayors to support her programs and policies, various groups in Bacolod were holding an anti-Cha-cha caravan, according to Felipe Gelle Jr., secretary general of the militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan in Negros.

Gelle said the protest actions were meant to "convey the message" to Ms Arroyo that Negrenses strongly opposed "her version of Charter change."

"[Ms] Arroyo's so-called Cha-cha train is, in reality, disapidated. It is [being] som down by illegitimacy, corruption cases and greed for power. It will not take the nation to progress but to further degradation," he said. With reports from Christine O. Avendaño in Manila; Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

Fr. Reuter presents 'other side' of the accused

embassy official and retired US Marine now married to a Filipino woman, who approached him regarding the soldiers' request,

"They didn't have anything else to do and they wanted something to keep their mind (about). So I've been seeing them twice a week, almost since the time they were brought to the embassy."

And in those series of visits, he said, he has come to "know them more personally."

Outside the embassy, Smith and company would expectedly face the wrath of anti-US protesters or any Filipino citizen outraged by the alleged rape.

'Not at all wild'

They were, after all, accused of taking part in the rape of a 22-year-old Filipino woman in a rented van while going on a joyride at the Suble freeport. Smith allegedly had sex with the complainant while the rest watched and even "cheered" their comrade on.

But Reuter, who was careful not to touch on the merits of the case, gave a different picture of the four GIs.

They are really clean-cut men, that's why I wanted the press to meet them. If you'd just talk to them, they make a very, very good impression; very soft-spoken, not at all wild," he said.

A few days before the arraignment, Reuter wrote the Inquirer as director of the Catholic Church's National Office of Mass Media encouraging the paper to get an interview with the four accused.

In the letter, he noted that "all the publicity that these men have received" had been about the charges against them, statements from the alleged rape victim, and legal opinions of the lawyers or government officials in-

Yesterday's court appointment, he said, was media's chance to "balance the picture" by interviewing the suspects even for a brief moment. (The suspects' escorts, however, whisked them quickly in and out of the courtroom, preventing any media interview.)

Personal backgrounds

Reuter also provided brief personal backgrounds on the suspects, the kind of information that has been withheld by their custodian, the US Embassy:

 Smith was 19 years old at the time of the incident. He celebrated his 20th birthday three weeks ago.

 Duplantis is 21 and was described by Reuter as "a gentle, soft-spoken" African-

Silkwood, 22, is "the tallest of the four."

· Carpentier, 27, is the platoon leader. His wife and children are based in Okinawa. He has a 7-year-old son and a daughter who has just turned 4.

In the interview, Reuter said he had also been in contact with the soldiers' parents in the United States.

How to keep their chin up

Asked what kind of counsel the Marines have sought from him, he said: "How to stay cheerful, how to keep their chin up, how to smile, in this terrible, stressful situation."

"I try to give the word of God to them, to keep them cheerful, because they are very, very tense and very depressed, really," he added. "And I like them personally, that's one reason why I'm here."

Whomever God sends me

As someone who had endeared himself to Filipinos, why was he that willing to get involved in an emotionally charged case seen as a potential test of Philippine-US relations?

"Because I'm a priest, for heaven's sakes," he smiled. "I deal with Fllipinos 99 percent of the time. Now I'm asked by an American. Am I going to say no?"

"I'm always praying to be worthy of the people who come to me, whom God sends to me."

Cops deny they're scaring protesters

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr. and Luige A. del Puerto

METRO MANILA POLICE YESTERday brushed off accusations that the discovery of grenades they said were intended to be used by Abu Sayyaf terrorists to bomb street protests was a ploy to frighten antigovernment demonstrators.

"These police operations we have been doing are all aimed at

Gov't sees peace deal with Moro rebs in May

pine government is confident 11,000 members with more than that a key hurdle to a peace accord with the country's largest Muslim separatist rebel group will be cleared soon, Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo said here

Philippine negotiators might sign a preliminary pact with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front on Muslim territorial claims in the southern Philippines as early as next month, when both sides meet for talks in Malaysia, said Romulo during a visit to Kuala Lumpur.

"The most important thing is to overcome these (territorial claims), which is really the major issue," Romulo told reporters. "We are optimistic that this important part of the peace process ... will finally be concluded here."

Such a breakthrough could enable a comprehensive peace deal to be reached by September, Romulo said, noting that both sides have "come to an agreement basically" on various details.

Officials have previously said the issue includes the scope of Muslim claims to ancestral territory in the southern Philippines and their right to utilize and develop land.

"There is no problem whatsoever, but there has been a need

for consultation with stakeholders, Romulo said. "We need to go to the provinces, we need to go to the villages." The MILE which

bration. We are taking preemptive measures," National Capital Region Criminal Investigation and Detection Group chief Senior Supt. Asher Dolina said.

We can accept that accusation rather than being blamed, once something wrong happens, that we did not do anything. Lives lost cannot be recovered," he added.

KUALA LUMPUR-THE PHILIP- the Philippine military says has 8,000 firearms, has been fighting for self-rule in the South for more than two decades. A 2003 ceasefire is in place while Malaysian-hosted

negotiations are underway. Malaysian Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar, who met Romulo to discuss bilateral issues, said his country hopes to help Philippine authorities plan measures to spur economic development in Mindanao, a volatile, impoverished region regarded as the Filipino Muslim homeland.

"Being close neighbors, Malaysia would like to see peace and prosperity prevail in the Philippines," Syed Hamid said, noting that Malaysia has both facilitated the peace talks and sent troops to monitor the ceasefire.

Malaysian officials said earlier this week both countries might cooperate in implementing socioeconomic projects and to improve Islamic schools in the southern Philippines.

The United States has also vowed financial support for the aren if a peace deal is signed, though some US officials suspect that certain MILF members may be collaborating with al-Qaida-linked Indonesian militants to plot attacks and hold terror training.

grenades and an improvised bomb in a house in Marikina City, and said it believed the bombs were to be used by the Abu Sayyaf on Labor Day protests.

The team had pointed out that the bombs were equipped with shrappel aimed at hurting people. The suspects would have used high explosive chemicals if they just wanted to bomb buildings, it said.

Dolina said they were still running after 10-12 Abu Sayyaf members, who had been using the rented house in Marikina City as a storehouse of explosives and a meeting place to discuss the alleged plan.

He would not confirm whether the suspected Abu Sayyaf members, including Jojo Janjalani who is believed to be a relative of Abu Sayyaf

ensuring a peaceful May 1 cele- on Thursday it had recovered six chieftain Khaddafy Janjalani, were still in Metro Manila and could still carry on the alleged plot.

Dolina said investigators were looking into bank slips found inside the alleged terrorist hideout. One of the slips, he said, came from a bank in southern Philippines and bore the name of the person maintaining the account.

We are trying to trace where the money came from and where it went," he said.

Militants saw in the reported seizure of explosives an elaborate "script" by the government to scare off people from joining protest actions on Monday.

They said that it was incredible that a month of monitoring the activities of suspected Abu Sayyaf men had failed to lead to a single arrest.







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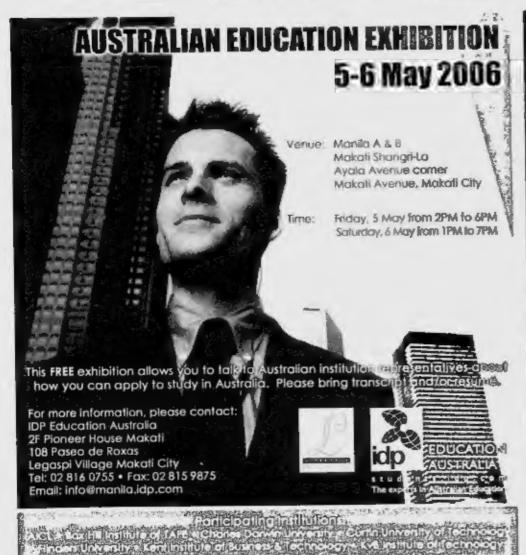
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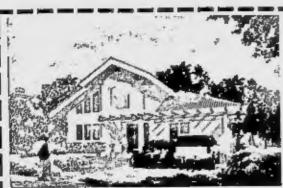
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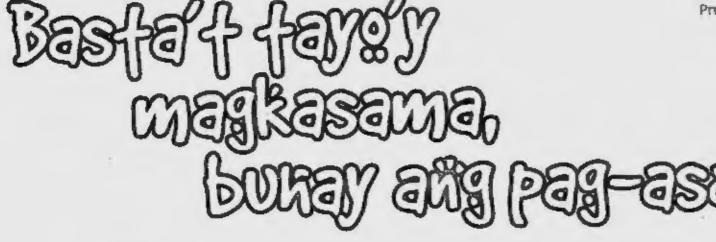
Prudentialife Founder and Chairman Ambassador Francisco A. Alba admiring the sunrise at Akean's "Bugtong-Bato", a rock landmark of Boracay Nuevo: where the sun rises!

Wala nang gaganda pa sa ginintuang sikat ng araw na humahawi sa kadiliman upang ipahayag ang pagdating ng Isang bagong umaga. Isang umagang puno ng pag-asa.

The beauty and mystery of sunrise is always a welcome sight. This year, Prudentialife celebrates the trlumph of hardwork and achievements at Prudentialakbay Boracay 2006, a gathering of sales champions and delegates. Together, as one family, Prudentialifers can have fun strolling on the white sands, enjoying the crystal clear blue waters and admiring the sun, a symbol of hope and bright tomorrow especially amid these trying times.

Prudentialife's Founder and Chairman Ambassador Francisco A. Alba and the management team will welcome Prudentialakbay 2006 participants at Boracay Nuevo, a resort property of Akean Resorts Corporation (ARC), an affiliate of the Prudentialife Group.

28



Sa pagsalubong mo sa bukang-liwayway Maaasahan mong ako'y iyong gabay Nasa tabi mo lang ako'y kapit-kamay At hindi bibitaw sa landas ng buhay That was a difficult year! But thanks to your unwavering support and commitment, we have managed to stay strong and stable despite the

ang pag-asa. And so we gather here in Boracay to celebrate the fruits of our hardwork and give recognition to the best of the best - the National Sales Olympics Champions and top Sales Associates.

problems facing the pre-need industry. Patunay lamang ito na basta't tayo'y sama-sama, buhay

I enjoin you to have fun and enjoy the fellowship as we move forward in 2006 with new hope, stronger faith and renewed vigor.

> Jose Alberto T. Alba President

Prudentia

2006 National Sales

TOP 10 SALES COUNSELORS

Eugenio B. Vinola Jed P. Lagmay Patrick L. Tan



Hammerling

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Every year we take time out to honor our Sales Associates who have shown exemplary dedication and excellence in their profession. This year, we indulge them with 3 days of fun under the sun in the island paradise of Boraczy.

(Schedule of Activities)

Day 1

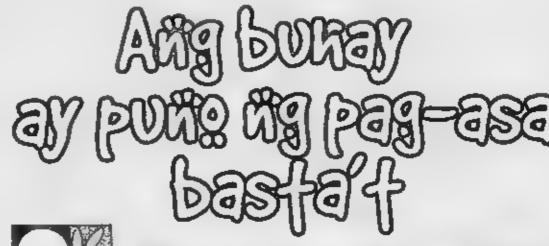
- Pagsalubong at Kapatiran
- Akean Att-atihan
- Bugtong-Bato Salu-Salo
- Kapatiran Luau Night

Day 2

- Pasasa amat at Parangal
- Thanksgiving Mass
- Katuwaan sa Beach
- Gabi ng Parangal

Day 3

- Free Day





Mahalaga ang matiwasay na pamumuhay kaya ang Prudentialife ay kabahagi ninyo sa pagpapagaan ng buhay para sa peace of mind, secure life and bright future.



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TOP 5 AREA MANAGERS



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Vol. 21 No. 240

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Bravado or ignorance?

T SEEMS TO ESCAPE FORMER PRESIDENT JOSEPH Estrada and Sen. Panfilo Lacson that their alleged complicity in an espionage case in the United States is serious. They continue to either shrug off or express surprise that their names have been dragged into the controversy. Their remarks betray their ignorance of the gravity of the scandal. The disgraced former president and

EDITORIAL the senator, along with former Speaker Arnulfo Fuentebella, have been cited by a US attorney as alleged participants in the unprecedented espionage case against Filipino Michael Ray Aquino and Philippine-born American Leandro Aragoncillo, a former White House analyst and intelligence agent, who allegedly downloaded several classified documents and e-mailed them to Estrada and the others.

Estrada dismissed the documents they received, saying there was nothing "classified" about them. "What I got were reports of the US Embassy about events that had happened here. There was nothing written there that we did not already know," he said.

Meanwhile, Lacson seemed to dare US authorities to indict them. "If they were going to indict us, they should have indicted us nine months ago," he said.

Their statements may indicate either bravado or ignorance. The information provided by Aragoncillo might or might not be new, but they were sourced from US intelligence files. And they were sourced from the White House system. The seriousness of the case is no laughing matter.

It may be that the intelligence data were culled from press reports about the Philippine situation, but the fact that they were contained in regular updates from the US Embassy in Manila should show that they were classified information-they were analyses of Philippine events that were officially classified as confidential.

The suspicion of American and Philippine authorities is that Aragoncillo and Aquino, who have connections with the political opposition here, were passing off the intelligence data to opposition groups seeking to topple President Macapagal-Arroyo. American prosecutors have, in fact, described Estrada as Aquino's godfather and Lacson as Aquino's mentor. The connections prefigure a twisted affair with grave repercussions.

President Arroyo may be prone to destabilization at tempts because of questions about her legitimacy, but that her opponents received classified information from US sources should indicate the complicity of some Americans. The espionage case may yet become a diplomatic and geopolitical underbox.

It remains to be seen if American prosecutors are going to press the issue against Estrada, Lacson and Fuentebella. Lacson seems confident he would escape unscathed since he seems to dare, in a rather backhanded sort of way, the American prosecutors to indict him. But he has admitted he had received the documents, and whether they were revealing or not, the fact stands they were classified and had come from confidential White House files. The incident is embarrassing for him.

The incident is also embarrassing for the US government. Wittingly or not, it has allowed its own intelligence system to be used for what appears to be a dangerous campaign to destabilize another government. It may continue to camouflage its pronouncements in diplomatic niceties or judicial rhetoric, but it knows the issue is grave. The awareness seems absent in Estrada and his alleged co-conspirators.

Another day of carnage

NOTHER CHAIN OF DEADLY BOMBINGS, ANOTHER DAY OF carnage and mourning and another stain on the image of the Arabs were added Tuesday to a long list of similar painful happenings in our region. Not much seems to be known about the murderous perpetrators, and speculation moves around a possible local grouping or the pernicious al-Qaida.

FOREIGN

What is known is that the barbaric crime targeted Egyptians and places where they make their livelihood: a restaurant, a café and a supermarket. This shows hatred and a base nature, and has little to COMMENT do with any "ideological" belief.

Together with heads of state, Islamic groups Hamas, Muslim Brotherhood condemned the attacks. The barrage of condemnations is reassuring. Humanity can still assert itself.

But citizens need to be alert as well. And governments should be reminded that unaddressed grievances often fester to bursting point,

potsoning minds and debasing mankind The sooner the murderers are apprehended and brought to justice the faster we can leave behind another dark episode in this region Jordan Times (Amman, Jordan) plagued by destruction.



A censuring contrast

ACCORDING TO A RECENT ISSUE OF TIME magazine, a poll commissioned by Buckingham Palace revealed that among several British institutions, the police obtained the highest approval rating from the people at 73 percent with the armed forces in second place at 72 percent. The Church of England ranked third at 51 percent followed by the Royal Family at 47 percent. The Parliament finished last at 43 percent.

Assuming that poll to be honest unlike some polls conducted by our own Malacañang Palace, we cannot help admiring the showing of the police and the armed forces of Britain which must really deserve the support and commendation of the people they have been serving with exemplary fidelity.

The bobbies of England are widely admired as respectable keepers of the peace and Scotland Yard is known throughout the world as the upright nemests of criminals. The bravery of the British soldier has been extolled from the time of Shakespeare to Churchill and up to the present, to glorify the armed forces of what used to be the British Empire on which the sun

I know comparison is odious, but the results of that London poll raise the unavoidable contrast with a similar poll that may be held here to examine the record of some of our own counterpart institutions. Such assessment will fill us with a sense of helplessness and selfblame for tolerating their flagrant excesses.

Almost every day, there are reports of policemen involved in holdups and robberies and extortions, let alone drunkenness and other kinds of misbehavior that besmirch their image as the principal law enforcers in this country. Only recently a former head of the National Bureau of Investigation was discovered to

MUCH HAS BEEN SAID ABOUT THE CAVITE

State University graduation incident, where

Maria Theresa Pangilman and another gradu-

aring student interrupted the ceremontes (and

President Macapagal-Arroyo's speech) by

shouting and waving banners, closely followed

by some members of the audience (definitely

As usual, sides have been taken along parti-

san or ideological lines, with those linked to

the administration making Pangilinan out to

be a heel, a law-breaker, a criminally inchned

individual if not yet a criminal actually, while

those linked to the opposition regard her as a

herome, some kind of modern-day Joan of Arc,

a role model for the younger generation. I

If Secretary Raul Gonzalez had his way, he

would throw the book at Pangilinan, citing Ar-

ticles 153 and 154 of the Revised Penal Code,

which penalize those who "cause any serious

disturbances in a public place, office, or estab-

lishment, or shall interrupt or disturb public

performances, functions or gatherings, or

peaceful meetings," and those who "by the

same means, or by words, utterances or

speeches shall encourage disobedience of the

law or the constituted authornes or praise,

justify or extol any act punished by law." He

has pointed out "aggravating circumstances":

where the crime is committed "in the palace of

the chief executive or in his presence, or where

public authorities are engaged in the discharge

of their duties." Which means that the penalty

could be closer to the longer period prescribed

by the law, which is from six months to two

Chill, Mr. Secretary. In the first place, if you

decide to apply those penal code provisions

fairly, you are going to have to put in jail al-

most everyone, including Speaker Joe de Vene-

cla and his pro-Cha-cha group, Interior Secre-

tury Ronaldo Puno, Chair Benjamin Abalos of

the Commission on Elections and their under-

lings who have, by their so-called people's ini-

years in prison

not parents) doing more of the same

stand somewhere in the middle

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

have acquired multimilion peso assets not commensurate with his modest salary. Some law agents have fled the country to escape prosecution for crimes they have commutted rather than prevented.

Unlike the armed forces that ranked second in the esteem of the British public, ours are disdained in this country for their unbelievable depravity. The generals seem to have conspired among themselves to monopolize graft in the military. There are angry protests from the junior officers, some because they have not been allowed to share in the loot and others out of an outraged sense of honor

Several generals are now facing prosecution for the hemous crimes of malversation and bribery, while others have been accused of committing election irregularities for which they have been rewarded with questionable

The Church of England is a purely religious institution, but the supposedly pious groups in our country exert considerable influence in political instead of sparitual matters. That is the reason why candidates for public office court many of these sects for their elective favors that are suspiciously extended not in recognition of high credentials but to the highest bidders. The cost is like the 30 pieces of silver paid by the sanctimonious high priests in Jerusalem who corrupted Judas.

The less said about Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as the Elizabeth II in the Philippines, the better. Our own queen suffers dismally in compartson with the real Queen who sits on her throne by rightful ascension. GMA's title is in serious question in view of the arregularities in the 2004 election and the misdeeds of her current administration. Among these were Executive Order No. 464 which was recently struck down by a unanimous if somewhat diffident Supreme Court, and the recently denounced "calibrated" ban on sawful assemblies. And there are other controversial measures, like the widely abhorred Proclamation 1017, still awaiting the just and fearless verdict of the magistrates.

What distinguishes the British Parliament from our Congress is our House of Representatives. The appropriately named Lower House is a disgrace to the people and our legislative history. Except for a few admirable exceptions, its conduct has been directed-or misdirected-by Malacañang, of which it is an obedient

The Senate, which is traditionally independent of the Executive Department, is often frustrated by the other chamber's subservience to the President's imperative ambitions. Now there are schemes to abolish the Senate and replace Congress with a Parliament consisting of the disreputable members of the House of Representatives.

When will the Filipino people wake up and protest? Have we become so punch drunk from the abuses of our leaders that we have lost the will and the strength to resist and punish them? We are the sovereign people but we are an bondage to our so-called public servants. It is time to reverse these ridiculous roles and give real meaning to our flaccid democracy.

No role model

Monsod



tiative, encouraged disobedience of the law and of the Supreme Court ruling on it. You can't ignore them while you pick on this 23year-old youth. That would add "bully" to the list of pejoratives that have been used to de-

In the second place, if you lay a finger (figuratively) on that girl, you will be not only blowing the incident out of proportion, but you will be making a marryr out of her. Not only those in her age group, but also parents in general, will be incensed by the beavy-handedness and the bias, starting with the 1,500-odd students who did not join her or applaud her actions during the commencement ceremonies and their parents. They were the ones hurt by the disruption of the ceremonies (certainly not the President, who has been subjected to infinitely more disrespect from her colleagues in politics), but their disapproval will surely turn to

But if Pangilinan is no criminal, she is no saint either. No role model is she, Her actions were certainly not well thought out, because she could have achieved her objective (if it was to give maximum embarrassment to the President or to serve as a rallying point for the students, she falled in both) without dissing the parents of the graduating students as well as the ceremony itself. How? It must be remembered that Pangilinan had the opportunity to very effectively put her point across which was not available to other students. One, she was a student regent, and two, she was head of the student government.

As the student representative in the univer-

sity's Board of Regents, she was in an excellent position to object to inviting the President as commencement speaker, and she could have had her reasons read into the minutes—a cold, objective critique, not hysterics. Which would have gotten more attention, and certainly more publicity and respect-imagine, a student behaving with more dignity and rationality than her elders! Instead, she was silent when the invitation was discussed

That she would be in the minority is certainly no excuse for not even making her views known (she was in a much smaller minority during the graduation). Because then, she still had a second ace up her sleeve: her position as head of the student government. This put her in a position to lead the graduating students (if they so desired) to protest the invitation-perhaps even forcing the university to rescind the invitation (or the President to decline). A series of campus protests would have generated the attendant publicity over an even longer period of time, and would have increased respect for her and her lund.

And if the students weren't with her, a third ace was available in meeting the President's party in front of the graduation venue with her group (probably left-leaning, from the organizational names), with the requisite banners and chants. That, 100, would have garnered publicity, and still have earned respect for her perseverance and principles.

These alternatives were far superior to hecking (it is frome that for all their anti-American rhetoric, they are slavish in their imitation of American customs). But she chose to do the larter, in the process disrupting a ceremony that for the vast majority of parents attending was the culmination of all their dreams for their children, and spoiling

To top it all, she proceeded to go up the stage and shake the hand of a person she char-

acterized as a har and a cheat. Not my idea of a role model.

Water wars

WHAT IS MORE VITAL FOR THE FUTURE OF humanity—and life in general—than water?

Water abounds in nature, and most of humanity will have lived more than 10 millenmums with-

out ever wondering about it.

We draw it, use it, throw it away, most often back into rivers or oceans. But we could very soon end up not having enough of the fresh water that accounts for just 3 percent of all the water available on our planet. When one considers the fights we are capable of having over oil, one shudders to imagine where a lack of water could lead. While Latin America seems well endowed, the situation is very different eisewhere. Europe is nearing its limits, and water scarcity is already a pressing issue in Africa, Central Asia and China.

Over the last 20 or 30 years, we have begun to comprehend what is at stake, owing to initiatives like the World Water Forum, which held its fourth annual meeting in March. Unfortunately, the Forum is not yet an official body and has no decision-making power. But providing an arena for thought and debate has brought at least one huge benefit: greater awareness about water issues among the public and policymakers.

Water management is an inherently difficult challenge, and experience counts a lot. Practice shows that local levels of government provide the most efficient water management, even if regulations must necessarily be national in scope. But this is a division of abor that few national gov-

ernments are ready to accept

Nor do most states seem prepared to start a real dialogue over water policy with civil society groups. At one extreme of exclusion, for example, consider that decisions about water management are largely taken by men, though in most of the world it is women who use the water. Moreover, interference is constant, and inevirable, between the public and the private sectors. A subtle mix of official regulation and private contracting is required. But not all jurisdictions respond in the same way

The multiplicity of interlocutors inevitably cre-

WORLD

Michel Rocard

VIEW



Water has a cost, and someone, either end-users or taxpayers, has to pay it. It is possible, of course, to envision sharing the costs, but it is no longer possible not to charge for water

ares a multiplicity of water systems with vastly unequal levels of efficiency. Initiatives like the World Water Forums thus mevitably highlight debates about what constitutes good water management, as well as elaborating useful concepts.

One casualty of such debates has been the myth that water is free. Water has a cost, and someone, either end-users or taxpayers, has to pay it. It is possible, of course, to envision sharing the costs, but it is no longer possible not to charge for water.

The most recent World Water Forum debated two issues that will confront policymakers in the years ahead. The first concerns the so-called "right to water." The urgency of the needs, with a billion

people facking access to drinking water and two billion without proper sewer systems, together with the vast number of diseases that result, understore the need to recognize such a fundamental human right. A consensus was reached at the Porum that such a right makes sense only if it is formulated in such a way that particular policymaking entities, be they water companies or local governments, face an affirmative duty to respect this right.

Only the state can be made responsible here. But the acknowledged responsibility of states in implementing the right to water cannot turn them into the sole paying authority. The state must be charged with ensuring an effective water system that meets the basic needs of all, but the balance of this system remains to be defined. These uncertainties, indeed,

The second issue concerned the role of local

Naturally, conflicts among governments or local authorities and private enterprises resurfaced, inevitably, the cruel lack of means was pointed out time and again. And, unsurprisingly, the lack of solidarity among water haves and have nots was openly on display at the Forum.

As we grapple with our joint water future, we will face a time of trial and error in finding workable solutions. But humanity already seems to be making more progress on matters related to

Michel Rocard, a former prime minister of France and leader of the Socialist Party, is a member of the European Parliament.

The doctor is out

I CANNOT HELP BUT FEEL WISTFUL THESE DAYS. NINE years ago, as a wide-eyed medical student, I was swearing to myself that I would serve humanity and my less fortunate countrymen. Now I have become a pale shadow of myself, tending mere embers of what used to be fires of idealism.

To hang the stethoscope and trade it for a nurse's immaculate white apron and stockings is a surreal experience. A

number of our colleagues in the profession still shake their heads when they hear that another one is selling out for a US visa. Since I shared these sentiments a year ago, even laughing at classmates jumped into the bandwagon of doc-

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below. -Ed.

Czarinah Pagay, M.D.

YOUNG BLOOD

tors-turned-marses, I now feel humbled-but rather surprisingly, also relieved.

Just a few weeks ago, I was stripped of my intellectual snobbery as I pledged to be a disciple of Florence Nightingale. During our capping ceremony, I could not help but note the bitter irony of seeing years of burning the midnight oil in study and giving up my youth for medical training cummate in my wearing a crisp, white head cap.

Existentialists say that acceptance is the key to maintaining one's sanity amid absurdity. I am trying to smile amid the unreality of it all. I am one of the growing army of restless professionals who are throwing in the towel after reaching the plateau of their careers even before they have started

It is weird to witness lawyers, accountants, dentists and physical therapists receive their second diplomas. But the shock soon wears out and it is with deep sadness that you realize that you are but symbols of a national desperation. You see no bright prospects in the coming years—just limitless opportunities to practice charity work. But you also want. and deserve to live the good life, too. You want to make sure. your family is financially secure and, further down the road, to retire in comfort. The vow of poverty is not part of the Hippocratic oath

Pive years into practice, from moonlighting as a physician to completing residency in a government ternary hospital, the herome in stethoscope feels lost after seeing and touching so much poverty and sickness. She can only wring her hands in despair after treating countless Mang Pandoys, who have been forsaken and neglected in their deathbods by a government that thinks cutting the budget for health is' smart. Believe me, you lose all your romantic notions after witnessing a child breathe his last due to a diarrhea that: could have been easily prevented. If his penniless parents only had the money for transportation, they could have brought him earlier for medical consultation and he would have lived. Or perhaps if the family lived in more samtary conditions with potable drinking water, he would not have been sick in the first place.

Doctors have a reputation for being apolitical. We do not? march in the streets to denounce archaic hospital facilities or complain about our ridiculously meager salaries. But we can only do so much, with our training and our skills, as our patients waste away from common illnesses due to their inability to buy life-saving medications. If you were shocked by the sight of a sea of people waiting for manna to fall from heaven in a nountime game show and the tragedy that struck them, then take a look at the long queue of patients seeking help. from charitable organizations or the public service arm of a television network. These are, of course, the poor's last resort after they have solicited help from the Philippine Charity? Sweepstakes Office and other social service agencies of the

These dirt poor people who are left to pick up crumbs to, keep body and soul together are the same people who. marched during Edsa Dos. In their helpiessness, they are only too willing to follow the directions of another patron

Coming from the middle class, I count myself lucky. With: the knowledge and training I have acquired, I can seek new opportunities in foreign shores where I can expect to get my due as a professional. If this nation thinks that paying \$200 to a doctor here is equivalent to \$5,000 to a nurse abroad and should be enough compensation for our toil and brains, I am not going to play a martyr. We doctors are just like every decent, hard-working citizen of this country who has the instinct of self-preservation. We are trying to stay afloat even, as the nation seems to be sinking. Government officials can continue to bicker until one day they have to go to a hospltal-only to find it empty. We boast about the brawn we send overseas, but if we lose our brain as well, what is going to happen to this country?

Since I am young and broke, this could all be useless bellyaching. But couldn't it also be the valid complaints of a thinking citizen of this country? Although some of our colleagues remain hopeful about our country's future, I don't think i can stay longer, waiting for a miracle. I am turning 30 in a few months, with only one ton of medical textbooks and a stethoscope for assets. And I still owe my parents half a million pesos in medical school tuition. A doctors cannot save lives if

his own is in peril. If these conditions continue, Filipinos will soon be seeing' signs being hung in medical clinics that read. "Sorry, but the doctor is out and the nurses are also away indefinitely. For emergencies, please contact your faith healer. Thank you."

Cuarinak Pagay, M.D., 29, works as a company physician and teaches part-time in a nursing school. She will be taking the marsing board exams some time this year and hopes to earn a certification in the United States next year

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirencom ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously

THEY SAID

Step for unity

We have no time to quarrel. I want to see This people unite and forget what has happened." -Embartled That Prime Minister Thakete Shunawatra, announcing he would step down from office after meeting with his country's revered monarch, King Bhumibol Adulyadaj

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led the Portan to avoid admowledging a formal right to water in its final resolution.

authorities. Despite the political and administrative centralization of most of the countries represented at the Porum, there was widespread agreement that the most efficient water systems are managed as close as possible to the resource and its users. Agreement on this provided a real breakthrough for the future of water pobcy.

drinking water than other global threats, such as climate change. We should all drink to that.

Project Syndicate

'Day without Immigrants'

HOLLYWOOD FIGURES LIKE EDWARD JAMES Olmos, who is of Mexican descent, Salma Hayek, who is Mexican, John Leguizamo, who is Colombian, and Oscar-winning (for "Brokeback Mountain") composer Gustavo Santaoialia, who is from Argentina, have expressed their support for a nationwide boycott on May 1 called by the immigrant community in the United States.

Organizers of the boycott, led mostly by Latino immigrant groups, have called on immigrants, documented or undocumented, and even citizens who can trace their lineage to immigrants, to "abstain from work, studies or purchasing" on that day to show their displeasure over the pending passage of legislation designed to eliminate illegal immigration into the United States and crack down on employers of illegal migrants.

The action has been dubbed "A Day without Immigrants," conceived as a way of showing American society how important migrants really are in daily life. Or as a leader in a Chicago rally observed: "If one day there were no immigrants, you would have no coffee in the restaurants, no waiters, no cooks, nor clean beds in the horels.

Santaolalia expressed his sentiments much more poetically: "We have to demand respect and dignity, because we are all workers and because we are already part of the DNA of this country."

Perhaps that's the problem with being part of a "nation's DNA": you become invisible. The "Day without Immigrants" should demonstrate to ordinary Americans, as well as to politicians across the political spectrum, not just the many important roles that immigrants assume in America's economic and social life, but also the strength and influence of the migrant community. Reports have said that politicians were stunned at the large turnouts in railies called across numerous citles in the wake of the controversial law.

WHILE Latino artists have lent their celebrity power to the staging of the May 1 boycott, in part in response to the participation and leadership of Latino migrant advocacy groups, Fillpino migrant leaders and organizations have been little heard from.

Even as Hawaii celebrated the centennial of the United States but to practically every country



the arrival of the first Filipino migrant laborers who toiled in the pineapple and sugarcane fields, the relative silence of Filipino groups on this latest political upheaval proves how Pilipino-Americans remain "invisible" in the American landscape.

This is strange, since migrant issues are of primary importance to the Fll-Am community where "INIS" (for tugo nang tago) abound. "Tago nang tago" means "forever hiding," referring to overstaying or undocumented migrants who usually enter a country as tourists then look for work and spend the rest of their time dodging authorities.

Many reasons have been cited for this development, including the inability of Filipino groups to maintain their solidarity, splintering into rival organizations after every dispute; the composition of the migrant population, with most preoccupied with demanding work that leaves them little time for civic involvement; as well as the case with which Filipinos have been able to integrate into the larger community, which ironically has deprived them of a unique identity and a rallying point.

THE "DAY WITHOUT IMMIGRANTS" website listed the main demands of the coalition: a "path to citizenship" for migrant workers, and not a "temporary guest worker" program; a family reunification program; the grant of protective measures even to undocumented workers; and full rights for all migrants.

But even Fittpinos in the Philippines would do well to follow developments around the "Day without Immigrants" movement. As a major sending country of migrant workers, not just to

that has a marginally better economy than ours (and even some that are doing worse), the Philippines stands to benefit from a better understanding of the issue by leaders of major "receiving"

in every international conference where migration has emerged as a concern, country delegations invariably divide between "sending" and receiving nations. "Family reunification" is a particularly thorny issue. "Sending" nations assert that no country has the right to keep parents separated from their children indefinitely due to migration restrictions, and that keeping one's family intact is a basic human right, "Receiving" nations, on the other hand, see allowing the reunification of families splintered by illegal migra-

tion as tantamount to rewarding law breakets. I suppose another reason for their recalcitrance is that "family" is a highly elastic concept, especially for Pilipinos, who may view family ties as extending to several degrees of consanguinity.

THE MAY I boycott should also prompt us to take another look at our own immigration policies. Our laws governing the granting of naturalized citizenship, for instance, are among the most complicated, difficult and graft-ridden processes in the world.

While we insist that other governments look upon Filipino migrant workers as productive citizens who contribute valuable services to their host countries and infuse these with their creativity, productivity and entrepreneurial activity, we Filipinos often take a dim view of other migrants on our shores. Too often we look at them as exploiters and workers stealing jobs and earning opportunities. Witness the "raids" that have been conducted on traders at the 168 mall.

Then, too, we tend to view migrants along stereotypical lines, such as ethnic Indians whom we portray as villainous usurers preying on small-time traders, even if their own clients attest that the practitioners of "fivesix" provide a valuable source of accessible credit which bigger institutions can't be both-

Death penalty not a crime deterrent

THE BASTER SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENT OF President Macapagal-Arroyo commuting all death sentences to life terms has resurrected the debate over the death penalty.

Leaving aside the legal issues and questions about the real motivation of the President in making that now controversial decision, the commutation is laudable. It's high time that the Death Penalty Law (RA 7659) is repealed.

It will be recalled that RA 7659 was enacted in 1994-despite the fact that the 1987 Constitution abolished capital punishment and implicitly discouraged its reimposition—as a state response to the constantly rising crime incidence. It was argued that the ultimate punishment of death for hemous crimes would deter criminality. When Congress finally weighs the issues in connection with pending bills seeking the repeal of RA 7659, the lawmakers should go back to this basic question: Is the death penalty really an effective deter-

rent to criminality? It's a pity that social scientists in our country have not looked into the relationship between the crime rate and capital punishment, leaving this open to speculation every time the question of the deterrent effect of the death penalty is raised. This is another example of the lack of appreciation of expert opinion and empirical evidence in government's legislative processes and policy-

making In the absence of local data on this, we turn to studies done in the United States which have concluded that the death penalty is not a deterrent to crime. The New York Times, which commissioned a study on this question in 2000, reported that from 1980 to 2000, or a span of 20 years, the homicide rate in states where the

COMMENTARY

Jigger S. Laloza Institute on Church and Social Issues

death penalty is in force has been 48 to 101 percent higher than in states without it. This finding Is consistent with what the US Federal Bureau of Investigation found: 83.33 percent of states which do not impose the death penalty have crime rates lower than the national average. Researchers involved in these studies have pointed out that "the threat of execution at some future date is unlikely to enter the minds of those acting under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol. those who are in the grip of fear or rage, those who are panicking while committing a crime ruch as robbery...

On the contrary, US studies have produced evidence that in states or councies where it is imposed, the death penalty seems to have a "brutalizing effect." Researchers Keith Harries and Derral Cheatwood, in probing differences in the incidence of homicide in 293 paired counties, observed that "there are higher violent crime rates in death penalty counties" than in non-death

penalty ones. Significantly, the US Bureau of Justice Statisties has noted that the South, which accounted for 80 percent of the executions in 1999, had the highest murder rate while the Northeast, with less than 1 percent of executions, had the low-

According to Amnesty International-USA, when Oklahoma resumed executions after a 25-

year moratorium, a significant increase in murders was reported.

one thing: The death penalty is not an effective

There are other researches that yielded similar results which I have not cited here due to space constraints. These scientific studies underscore

crime deterrent What deters criminality for certain, as many studies have established, is the certainty of being caught and punished. Apparently, it's the thought, reinforced by observations and experiences, that one can commit crimes without being caught and punished that triggers lawlessness in this country. It's the belief that the system is corruprible and that one can go scot-free because of influence or wealth that drives people to commit the most beinous of crimes. Indeed, in the act of committing an offense-be it as petty as stealing P100 or as grave as plundering millions-does one first think of the corresponding punishment

or of the probability of being caught and being

brought to justice? Of course, we badly need similar studies within our national context to make informed judgments and legislation on the matter. But in the absence of such studies, we cannot afford to use mere conjecture as a basis for holding on to the death penalty. We are dealing here with human life. Given the fallibility of judicial systems, the probability of executing an innocent person is always there. And this may be especially true in the Philippines, where the criminal Justice system has been constantly under attack for corruption, conspiracy with criminals, ineffectiveness and other internal and external weaknesses that widen the margin for erroneous, and unfortunately irreversible, impositions of the death penalty.

OPINION

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LETTERS

Unmistakably

THIS IS A REACTION TO THE

letter of Florencio Mateo, chief

of the Traffic and Parking Man-

agement Office, regarding the

terminal in a stretch of a service

road in Backran, near Heritage

Mateo denies that the place

is being used as a terminal and

argues that it is just a designat-

ed area for loading and unload-

ing passengers. He proceeds to

explain that "as a policy, the

mayor does not allow the open-

ing of new bus and jeepney ter-

minals in Pasay City because

they usually cause traffic

I am one of the thousands of

people who regularly go to

Baclaran to shop for cheap, im-

ported items. The terminal is an

unmistakable sight for Baclaran

shoppers and devotees.

Whether or not it has been offi-

cially designated by the Pasay

City government as one is an-

Whether or not an official re-

ceipt is issued to those who use

it is also another story. I believe

that the concerned Pasay City

officials are aware that the

place is in fact being used as a

But one thing sure, it is defi-

nitely not just a loading and un-

loading area as Mateo would

like the public to believe. I rec-

ognize a designated loading

and unloading area when I see

one, whether it is along Edsa,

Ayala Avenue, or some other

Three rectangular lots -each

of which has a size of about

1,000 square meters---where

up to 100-200 jeepneys, huses

and even 40-foot container

vans are allowed to park, could

not be just a loading and un-

loading area. Especially, when

in those places "parking rates

signhoards" are posted.

parking" terminal.

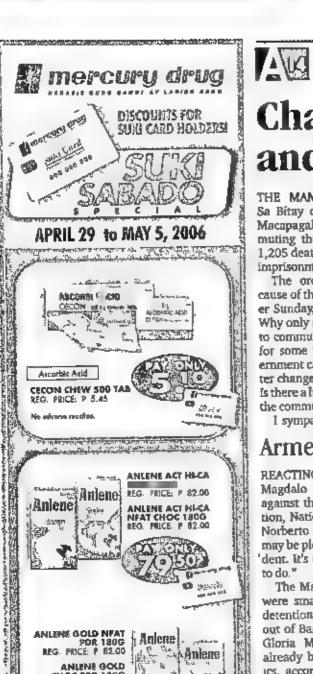
major road.

a terminal

Hotel. (PDI 4/10/06)

jams."

other story.



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Anlene

Charter change and commutation THE MAMAMAYANG TUTOL lies of the victims of hemous Sa Bitay commends President Macapagal-Arroyo's order commuting the death sentence of 1,205 death row convicts to life imprisonment. The order was timely be-

cause of the celebration of Easter Sunday, but the question is: Why only now when the power to commute has been with her for some time? With the government campaigning for Charter change, I can't help but ask: is there a hidden agenda behind the commutation?

I sympathize with the fami-

crimes and join their call for justice, Kidnapping, drug trafficking, rape and other crimes must be stopped and there should be justice, but not barbaric justice.

Imposing the death penalty does not in any way offer the offender the opportunity to reform and to contribute to the good of society.

-LECIE D. ARCE, accretariate Mamamayang Tutol Sa Bitay-Movement for Restorative Justice, Blk. 8, Lot 24, NHA 2 Agdao, Davao City

Armed forces perfectly united

Magdalo soldier's threats against the Arroyo administration, National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales said, "They may be plotting to kill the President. It's the only logical thing

The Magadalo soldiers, who were smart enough to escape detention, won't make a martyr out of Barabbas. And if indeed Gloria Macapagal Arroyo has already been crucified by crities, according to disciple Raul Gonzalez (her justice secretary), the majority of Filipinos here and abroad know which of Golgotha's three crosses she's hanging from.

if GMA were assassinated, Noli de "Clueless" would be president. Or let's draw from the Ninoy Aquino experience: We'd have a major infrastructure named after GMA, Bangko Sentral would put her mug on a new paper bill, her spouse could later become president, and her daughter would be a show-biz darling.

GMA is not loved by many Gandhu, Kennedy Anaino); neither is she heavensent (unlike Wojtyla), but she'd love to be inducted into this circle of greats. So if it's an assassination the rebel soldiers are cooking up, then logic needs to be taught in military schools better.

AFP chief, Gen. Generoso Senga, withdrew from Security Adviser Gonzales' reasoning and Justice Secretary Gonza-

REACTING TO AN ESCAPED lez's proselytizing. He tried advertising instead: "Ang Hukbong Sandatahan ng Pilipinas ay buong buo." (The APP is perfectly whole.)

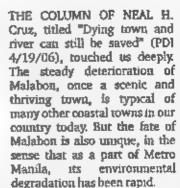
And here are some truths that Senga, perhaps, saw: (1) The Magdalo soldiers are not rebels. They want to be detained so they can work on their master's degrees or diploma courses at UP Open University. (2) West Point graduate Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim and his Scout Rangers were just griping about not getting "meals ready to eat" when they go on tours of duty. Sacks of rice and pots and pans are quite funny loads. (3) The Marines came in full battle gear to their headquarters to see Col. Ariel Querubin auditioning for an action pic-

ture role. Buong buo. The escaped Magdalo soldiers, meanwhile, are trying their hands at marketing. One had himself interviewed by Che-Che Lazaro to present us a teaser of their newest enterprise, and his brothers in detention are studying management and entrepreneurship.

So we can conclude: Gonzales has "fuzzy logic," and Gonzalez's gospel is "uninspired"; Senga can't put up an advertising agency, and the Magdalo entrepreneurs are better off studying at Wharton. And maybe it's time for a classified ads section for putsch stylists and Palace sycophants.

-PIO ROCES. lunastimus@yahoo.com

Reviving Metro Manila's rivers PRILIPPINE ATIVE



Local officials of the towns and cities of Metro Mamla should therefore support the project of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to clean up and revive the principal rivers (and their tributaries) in the Metro Manila area, especially the Pasig River which serves as an outlet for most waterways in the

Cruz is right in saying that the reason Malabon is flooded for long periods during the year is that its rivers have been choked and killed by factories and other constructions due to poor urban planning. The Pasig, which is the principal river pro-

viding an outlet for floodwaters in Metro Manila, has also been silted and is practically dead. Efforts to dredge the Pasig and restore it to its pristine glory have failed due to lack of politi-4

The DENR seems to have the right idea in conceiving of a "holistic" pian to restore and enhance the natural environment of Metro Manila by cleaning up its principal waterways and tributaries, including the Pasig, so that floodwaters can easily flow to the sea as nature intended them to.

Clearly, this would require a Herculean effort, but with the cooperation of the local governments of Metro Manda, this can be done. The effort will also mean additional jobs for the unemployed in the metropolis, while the expenses will be evenmally compensated by greater progress and savings on the health expenditures of Metro Manula governments.

-FLORIAN VILLASENOR. 622 Vanguard St., Aeropark, Better Living Subdivision, Parafiaque City

Meralco customers need straightforward answers

letter, "Nothing wrong with ures of Meralco. Meralco writing GMA," (PDL 4/22/06) of Elpi Cuna Jr.

We expected Cuna to give us straightforward answers customers, fully deserve). After all, Cuna is working for a public

Anyway, Cuna failed to an swer the observation that two of the five conditions under Section 31 of the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Epira) have yet to be complied with as requisites for the initial implementation of open access and retail competition

It is not Metalco's desire to open up its contestable market to competition, but the compliance with Epira's requisites to retail competition that will pave the way for open access.

Cuna also failed to clarify concerns about possible tradeoffs behind Meralco's letter to the President. We are not surprised, though, because the fail-

THIS IS A REACTION TO THE ure only reflects the many fail-

Among these is Meralco's non-compliance with Section 23 of the Epira, which mandates distribution utilities to (which we, as Meralco's captive source the least cost supply of electricity. As a result of this fanure, the Philippines now has the highest electricity rate in Asia \$0.18/kWh compared to Japan's \$0.17/kWh.

We hope the Energy Regulatory Commission and the Joint Congressional Power Commission (JCPC) will do something 1 about this.

-DR. BONIFACIO DAZO, president, Federation of Las Piñas Village Associations, SIEGFRIEDO VELOSO, president, Federation of Village Associations in Muntinlupa, EPIMACO MAGPANTAY, president, Federation of Barangay Don Bosco, Parañaque Homeowners' Association, Paramaque City, homeowners federation @yahoo.com



---VERONICA ASAD,

venny_abad@yahoo.com

MOBILE PHONES APRIL 2006



A disappointing apology

WHAT A DISAPPOINTING REMARK FROM A Catholic priest. I hope you will forgive the Catholic Church," Bishop Antonio Tobias told President Estrada for the role of the late Jaime Cardinal Sin in the 2001 Edsa Revolution (PDI, 4/20/06) What an unmature and irresponsible remark, and it was made by a priest during a homily. Bishop Tobias wasn't even supposed to be thinking or speaking for the Catholic Church.

Whether he was making a political statement about his dismay at the Arroyo administration, or showing his staunch support for and loyalty to Estrada, his apology sounded like it was meant to acquit Estrada of crimes he allegedly committed while he was the country's president.

This is not to say that the incumbent President is clean and perfect. Perhaps, she too has dirt on her hands and skeletons in her closet, but Bishop Tobias embarrassed the Catholic Church as a whole with his myopic and selfserving "judgment."

-DANTEL DALILIS JR., dbd9873@sbcelobal.net

Society's failure

AN UNFORTUNATE INCIDENT HAPPENED at the Cavite State University when a graduating student heckled President Macapagal-Arroyo It was one more confirmation that our educational system is failing. It underscored the need to inculcate proper values in our children. The ultimate goal of education is to develop citizens with good manners. It also emphasized a failure of our society. As the saying goes, "It takes a village to educate

A good Filipino value dictates that we treat our visitors with respect. Our grandparents and parents taught us this value. Ms Arroyo was not a politician when she went to the Cavite State University. She was an invited guest. It was unfortunate that a poor, misinformed, disrespectful soul treated her that way. And the heckler did it also without consideration and respect for the other graduates, their parents, relatives and friends.

The act was extreme rudeness personified, It was worse that the heckier graduated from a state university. Meaning, most of her tuition was subsidized by the people. The heckler might have had reasons to be angry at the President. But certainly they were not enough for her to disregard propriety and decorum.

The incident was a slap on the face of university officials. It was a slap on the face of the parents of all the graduating students. The irony was she went up the stage and extended her hand to Ms Arroyo. It was good that she had some sanity left. I pity her parents for bringing up an ill-mannered daughter.

-- DR. ULYSSES BANIGA. BANIGAU@acl.com



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INQUIRER Visayas

Editor Jun Bandayrel Bureau Chief Edralyn L. Benedicto

'Balikbayan' brings books to the countryside

By Hazel P. Villa. Passi City, Iloilo

N BOOKS, WE READ STORIES of courage and determination A amidst life's "slings and arrows of outrageous fortune," as the bard William Shakespeare would put it.

THE R. P. LEWIS CO. LEWIS CO. P. LEWIS CO., LANSING, MICH.

Sr., 68, has been inspired by the stories he read about bravery and the intellectual overcoming of problems that he wants Filipmos to be equally inspired and find answers in their collective quest for progress.

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llonggo balikbayan Napoleon P Pacifbar volumes of books, magazines and audio-visual materials from this native of Barangay Gines Viejo, Passi City, who has worked in the shipyards of the US Navy in the last 38

By Paclibar's own estimate alone, the books and magazines of every conceivable title and subject matter that he has donated in the name of the Tomas and Victoria Paclibar Foundation, named after his parents, may amount to more than P58 mil-

Some of the books he bought from publishers and bookstores while the others came from US libraries and private citizens. He would ride in his sedan or pick-up and, get the books from sources and ship them to the Philippines.

Donating books seems to be such an allconsuming passion for Paclibar that he goes home to Passi City at least six times a year from his home in San Francisco, California to deliver the books or receive certificates of appreciation from the many schools lucky enough to receive dictionaries, encyclopedias, or complete collections of National Geographic and other expensive magazines.

His philanthropy has earned him the monicker "Mr. Books" and he proudly introduces himself by that name when meeting people or answering the telephone.

He was also instrumental in putting up six reading centers in selected barangays of Passi City, Pototan and Dingle towns in Hodo and has sent more than 10 scholars to

Anyone can have the opportunity to put something in his or her head as long as there are books," said Paclibar, an alumnus of the Boilo School of Arts and Trade (now known as Western Visayas College of Science and Technology), which is a recipient of most of his

The WVCST has a special place in the heart of Paclibar as it was instrumental in giving ham the breaks that led to his philanthropy. In turn, his alma mater awarded him on Sept. 9, 2005 as one of its 100 Most Outstanding Tradeans of the Century in the field of Com-



(LONGGO balkbayan Napoleon P. Padibar Sr., 68, takes a breather at the president's office of the Western Visayas Coilege of Science and Technology which is one of the recipients of books he has HAZEL BYILLA

munity and Philanthropic Service when the WVCST celebrated its cententual.

Interesting life

Paclibar's life is as interesting as the contents of the fiction and autobiographical books that he donates and his early years as a farm boy, houseboy and stevedore formed the mindset that has made him a philanthropist

Morning of June 4, 1956. 18-year-old Napoleon Paclibar had no breakfast as usual and was praying like he had never prayed before as he walked fast from the house towards the church, a mile away.

He was up against 5,300 applicants all over the Philippines and the US Civil Service Commission will take only 30 young men who will pass the four written exams, three interviews, and two physical exams to be privileged scholars of a US government-sponsored apprenticeship in various courses.

BALIKBAYAN/A17

'Anyone can have the opportunity to put something in his or her head as long as there are books'









Bantay Presyo ng Gobyerno

Joint government-business sector study shows very minimal impact of oil price increases in the prices of basic commodities. A P0.50 fuel price hike translates only to P0.01 to P0.06 in the prices of processed goods, and P0.01 to P0.04 per kg to agricultural products. The following should guide consumers:

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

DOE Hotlines:

Consumer Welfare & Promotions Office

840-2267 Retail Marketing Division

Power Bureau

840-5669; 840-2130 840-2173

Text: DOE<space>message, send to 2920 (Globe and

Smart)

Website: www.doe.gov.ph

Retail Price Ranges of Petroleum Products in Metro Manila (in PhP/liter) (As of 24 April 2006)

Unleaded	37.15	-	38.53
Diesel	32.79	-	34.46
Diesel (PUJ Discount)	32.79	-	33.7B
Kerosene	34.98	-	38.00
LPG (per 11 kgs tank)	384.50		487.00

LAND TRANSPORT **FRANCHISING AND REGULATORY BOARD**

LTFRB Hotline: 925-7191 Text or call: 0921-4487777 Website: www.dotc.gov.ph Metro Manila Fare Rates (in Php) (Effective 09 May '05)

10.00

1,75

Public Utility Jeepney (PUJ) 1st jour kilometers	7.50
succeeding kilometer	1,25
Public Utility Buses (PUB, non-aircon)	
1st five kilometers	9.00
succeeding kilometer	1.75
Public Utility Buses (PUB, sircon)	

ist five kilometers aucceeding kilometer

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

For inquiries and complaints:

(cash pick-up price)

Call the DTI Consumer Assistance Hottine 751-3330 Text DTI<space>reklamo, send to 2920 (Globe and Smart) To know the latest price of selected basic goods in Metro Manila, Cebu and Davao: Text: DTI-space>Presyo, send to 2256 (Globe, Sun & Smart) Website: www.business.gov.ph

Comparative Retall Price COMMODITY	in Metro Manila Wetmarkets PREVAILING PRICES (In PhP) Current LastMonth		
	(24 April 2005)	(20 March 2006	
AND TO SEU SEE A	(Extrater second	120 122 231 2000	
CANNED FISH, 155 g	10.00	10.00	
555	10.50	10.50	
Ligo	10.50	10.50	
Master		10000	
PROCESSED AND CANNED MEAT			
Luncheon Meat	40.00	40.00	
Maling (397 g)	22.00	22.00	
CDO, Civnese style, 165 g	22.00	21.00	
	00.00	20.00	
Philips (200 g)	20.00	15.00	
Argentina (170 g)	15.00	18.00	
Gusto (220 g)	18.00	Idron	
Corned Beef	40.00	37.00	
Argentina (260 g)	37.00	30.00	
Pureloods (150 g)	30.00	atron	
INSTANT NOODLES (Chicken Fla	vor)	E 00	
Lucky Me (55 g)	5.00	5.00	
Maggi (55 g)	5.50	5.50	
Payless (55 g)	5.00	5,00	
PROCESSED MILK			
Condensed Filled	**		
Cametion (301 ral)	35.00	35.00	
Evaporated Filled			
Angel (410 ml)	22.00	23.00	
Camation (378 ml)	27.00	27.00	
Powdered Filled		40.00	
Alaske (60 g)	18.00	18.00	
Bear Brand (180 g)	39.00	39.00	
Bear Brand (80 g)	18.00	18.00	
COFFEE REFILL (25 g)			
	13.25	13,25	
Nescale	17.00	17.00	
Great Taste- Premium Bland	15.00	15.00	
CEMENT (Portland, 40-kg bag)	164.00	184.00	

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

DA Hotline: 920-4073; 920-4072 Text: DA<space>message, send to 2956 (Globe) Website: www.da.gov.ph

Comparative Retail Prices in Metro Manila Wetmarkets

COMMODITY	SPECIFICATION		REVAILING PRICES (InPhP per kilo)	
_		Current (27Aprii2008)	Last Month (28 March '06)	
NEA Ordinary rice Special comit rice	Well milled Regular milled Well milled	18.00 22.00 24.00	18.00	
FISH Bangus Tilapua	(Fresh and firm) Med (3-4 pcs/kg) Med (5-6 pcs/kg)	80.00 70.00	75.00	
MEAT & POULTRY Pork flempo Chicken egg	Pork belly Fully dressed per piece	140.00 100.00 3.30	100.00	
SUGAR Refined sugar Brown sugar		38.00 32.00	38.00	
Cooking Oil Laped bottle	In 375 ml bottle	15.00	15.00	

By Alex Pal Apo Island, Negros Oriental

IKE MANY OF HIS MALE neighbors in this 74-hectare Island off the coast of Dauin in Negros Oriental, Jimmy Tabanera leaves home every morning to fish. While Apo Island is surrounded by fish, there are several places where fishermen frequent because it guarantees them a good catch. One such place is what they call Cogon Point in the northern part of the island.

Jummy caught only two jacks last Monday but he was ready to call it a day. The two jacks each weighed 9.9 kilos and 12 kilos. The smaller one immediately sold for P1,300 to local tourists.

It wasn't always this good. The islanders still remembered the time the fishermen of Apo had to paddle far from shore just to find food for their families.

"We had our share of illegal fishers-from muro ami to dynamite fishing to cyanide poisoning," recounted Jimmy's younger brother Julito, 42.

Marine sanctuary

Julito was a young man barely out of his teens in 1984 when he saw the pioneering attempts of Dr. Angel Alcala of Silliman Univeraity to convince the people of Apo Island to establish a marine sanctuary to allow the fish to breed and grow big enough before they are

These efforts initially met resistance, not so much from the operators of the illegal fishing trade, but from the islanders themselves. It required a lot of social preparation and community organization. The conservation efforts received a big boost when then Lt. Col. Cesar Garcia, Jr., the provincial commander of the Philippine Constabulary in Negros Oriental, put up a police detachment in the Island to enforce the laws against illegal fishing.

Garcia, whose tour of duty ended in 1986, was replaced by then Lt. Col. Tiburcto Pusilero, who continued the environmental program of his predecessor. So with other officers who followed, like then Lt. Col. Ricardo de Leon. Aside from their concern for the environment, another thing they had in common was their love for scuba diving.

A policeman who was sent to be a member of the Apo island detachment later married a woman from the island, giving the island its smiling Pusilero said. first full-time policeman.

Environmental programs

The island was later declared a protected area under the National Integrated Protected Areas System law and is currently being managed by a Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) The PAMB meets regularly to formulate policies governing the development of the island, as well as seeing to it that all activities done are environmentally sound and that to make our dream the fishing grounds would be preserved.

Environmental education was also integrated into the elementary school curriculum, where the children are taught the importance of corals, mangroves and the ecosystem.

Apo Island has since attracted thousands of tourists and scientists who never cease to admire the relatively unspoiled reef and diverse marine life at the island's marine sanctuary, the first successful example of a communitymanaged coral reef.

The island's marine sanctuary was recently replicated and made a permanent exhibit at the Shedd Aquarium in Chicago, where visitors are not only given a view of the island and the reef but are welcomed "to the Philip-

Welcomed sons

Long after their stints as provincial commanders of Negros Oriental had ended, Garcia, De Leon and Fusilero, would occasionally take time out from their assignments to make sentimental visits to the island, where they were always welcomed like long-lost sons.

Garcia joined the Army when the Constabulary was dissolved in 1992, retiring as a Brigadier General. He is currently the Director General of the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency. De Leon went up the hierarchy and retired as Deputy Director of the Philippine National Police while Pusilero capped his colorful stint as a police officer by retiring with the rank of Chief Superintendent. He now manages a watershed reforestation project in the mountains of

Holy Week was one such occasion for Garcia, who came with his family and friends, and Fusilero.

Lush mangrove forest

"Much has happened since we were here three years ago," Fusilero said, noting the lush mangrove forest near the marine reserve. The trees planted in the hills almost 20 years ago were also getting bigger and were very visible from the shore.

"Looking at all these brings back happy memories," Garcia said as he gazed at the greenery before him.

"It gives us a deep sense of pride to come here and see the gains the people of Apo Island have made. Other places are now copying the Apo example, the

But perhaps, the sentiments of the islanders were conveyed by Julito, when he told his visitors: "We remember you guys because you helped our island a lot. I'm thankful that everyone cooperated

'Balikbayan' brings . . .

From page A16

The first honor graduate of Passi Central School had tried his luck in Manila after finishing high school with a Technical Curriculum Course in Woodworking at the Iloilo School of Arts and Trade.

After a year, he has had enough of the travails of an unpaid houseboy and lowly paid stevedore at the US Naval Base in Subic Bay that tears streamed down his face as he begged God to give him a chance at the US Civil Service Exam.

The eldest of 10 children of Tomas and Victoria Paclibar never tires of telling listeners how, in a span of three months, he went back and forth to the examination room until he became the only applicant from Eastern and Western Visayas, and one of the luckiest 30 (and one of three high school graduates up against professionals) to receive the boilermaking scholarship which is equivalent to a bachelor's degree.

The scholarship paved the way for him to become an apprentice boilermaker at the US Naval Base in Subic Bay all the way to various positions that led him to the United States until he retired in 1995 as Quality Assurance Specialist (Inspector/Surveyor) for Shipbullding, Department of Defense, US Navy.

Pacifiar now leads a comfortable life, confident that his nine children (one son died of cancer in Feb. 16, 2002) with wife Clemencia Delantar-Paclibar are stable with their own jobs and families.

"I could travel around the world and live a very relaxed life but I choose to come back to the Philippines and make sure that young children get a good education," said Paclibar, who learned to count and recite the alphabet under the shade of the santol tree in the early 1940s.

Inspiration

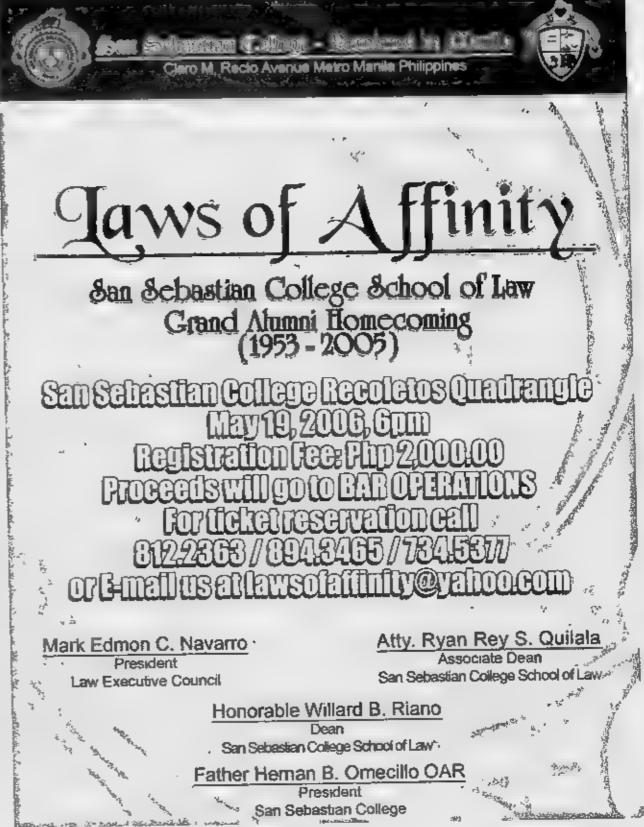
His difficult life as a young student serves as his inspiration in encouraging young people to read often and study well.

"All I had were banana leaves for paper and sharpened bamboo sticks as pencil," said Paclibar, who, as a child during World War H, saw first hand the generosity of his mother, which he says he would never forget.

There was so much starvation during the Japanese occupation. People were dying from eating illprepared layor (root crop which is poisonous unless cooked well). We had rice just enough for us, but one woman begged my mother for some food and she gave half of our rice to her," said Paclibar in rough Kinaray-a, the dialect of Passi City.

Sending books from the US to be distributed in far-flung schools, where students have yet to see colorful pictures on glossy paper, remains Paclibar's priority.

The "slings and arrows of outrageous fortune" may already be behind him but Paclibar says many young Filipinos may do well not to go through Shakespeare's description of life by learning to appreciate books.



PHILIPPINE HEART ASSOCIATION, INC.

PHILIPPINE COLLEGE OF CARDIOLOGY

1. Categories

arketing W91%



GENERAL CONTEST RULES AND GUIDELINES

L. Eligible Contestanta

The Contest is open to all working mothers aged 25-60 years old Members of the Philippine Heart Association (PFIA) Board and Cookfest Committee are not eligible to join the Contest

Parucipants should submit prefembly a one-dish meal (wand) or a main dish and a vogetable dish for a family of 6 within a working budget of P250

3. Materials/lugredients Healthy Heart recipes should use fresh ingredients not processed and not prepared seasonings or mixes 4. Recipe Write-up

a) Should be brief but concise, describing the dishes and the cooking methods used; listing all ingredients according to order of use expressed in household measure, and indicating specifications (e.g. type, kied, variety, out, market form, out size). Steps should be in paragraph form, according to sequence. Procedure should be simple, indicating exact cooking temperature and time.

Recipe should include the approximate size (number of servings) and total

Deadline for the Submission of Entry Forms is on or before May 5, 2006. The official entry/ registration forms/recipe entries and other requirements (contestants' information) may be mailed, personally delivered, or fixed to

MA. TERESA B. ABOLA, MD Chairman, Conkfest Committee

Philippine Heart Association (Heart House) Sunta 502 President Tower Building, 81 Timog Ave., cor. Secut Ybardoloza St., Quezon City Tel No. 929-1161, Fax No. 929-1165

Pre-Contest orientation is on May 19, 2006 wherein 20 semi-financias will be chosen

Judges are composed of individuals from professional organizations, food industry, government and nongovernment institutions, media and culinary ans/food experts and selected child judges. Semi-finalists will bring their cooked dishes the actual taste-testing by the

Judging will be on May 23, 2006, the day of the contest, all cooked dishes for 6 persons will be presented to the judges and viewers at the knoben studio. The 20 semifinalests have one bour (7a.m. to Ba.m.) to set up and present their recipes. The top 3 winners have to whip up their menus on-site under time pressure (11 a.m. 1 p.m.)

Over-all acceptability/ paintability (color/ appearance, flevor, texture or consistency, general appeal, and necessability) Ingredients/foods represent groups in the 30%

Filipeso Food Pyremid Guide Originality (creativity/ sanqueness of recipe) Confecencing, availability of added

ingredients, ease of proparation 10% Тіте тападетені

10% Presentation Prizes

Al, participants will be given certificates of participation/ recognition and the winners for such entegory shall receive plaques and the following outh prizes First perze P30,000; Second preze P20,000; Third prize P40,000

therapharma



MEGALOTTO 6/45 (2) 6) 10 17 37 42 P32,144,342.40

Atis driven out in boom in Boracay

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr. PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—THE ATI COMMUNITY ON BORACAY Island is being driven out of their village by landowners despite an injunction prohibiting their eviction.

Sr. Victoria Ostan, of the Holy Rosary Parish An Mission (HRPAM), said the Art families are still in danger of losing their homes despite the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples' (NCIP) order barring their eviction from their village.

In a decision released Priday, the NCIP regional hearing office for Western and Central Visayas issued a permanent injunction against holders of tax deciarations claiming ownership of the lands the Ahs occupy.

In his order, NCIP hearing officer Sulpicio Gamosa Jr. said the Atts "cannot be summarily relocated without their free, prior and informed consent, at least until their petitions for CADT (certificate of ancestral domain title) are still pending with the NCIP®

Gamosa cited historical and anthropological data that showed that the Atis now living in Sitio 80abog in Barangay Balabag are direct descendants of the Atis who first inhabited the island

The Ans have a pending application for the issuance of a CADT claiming they are the first inhabitants of the 1,032-hectare island-resort. The application, filed on Feb. 23, 2000, has not been resolved by the commission until now,

But Ostan said the community is still being threatened with eviction from the one-hectare land they are occupying at the northern end of the island.

The Ari village sits on adjacent properties of Aniceto Yap, brother of provincial board member Jose Yap, and the family of Aldan Rep. Florencio Miraflores

During her visit to the island on April 15 last year, President Macapagal-Arroyo told Ari leaders that their community would be relocated to a one-hectare property within the 80-hectare Eco-Tourism Village on the Island.

The P50-million relocation site will be donated by the Taytay sa Kauswagan inc. (TKI) and the Boracay Property Holdings Inc.

But until now, the planned relocation site and the transfer of the Ans have not been implemented

Instead, Ostan said, a concrete fence erected early this year has cut off the passageway of the Atis to their houses. A storage building for jet-ski gears is also being constructed in the village.

The construction is being undertaken allegedly by the Seraph Hotel on the property of the Miraflores family.

Ostan said the Aris are com-



ATI CHILDREN hold empty plates and face an uncertain future as the resort boom in Boracay threatens to displace them from the island that their ancestors first inhabited.

plaining that they have no path to pass through to get to their homes.

They feel that they are slowly being strangled and pushed out of their village. They are frustrated that despite various promises, they are still being driven out and with nowhere to go," Ostan told the Inquirer in an interview.

A member of the community, Gloria

Domingo, already left the island on Feb. 26 after being paid P6,000.

"The Atis are being convinced one by one to leave the village while the structures are being erected," said Ostan.

She said they have urged the Aris to remain calm because they have resorted to heavy drinking in frustration.

ROUNDUP

Dengue kills girl

COTABATO CITY-A 9-year-old girl died while seven others from Parang, Maguindanao were brought to the hospital when they were stricken by dengue. Marttes Fernandez, chair of Making VIIlage, said they could have prevented the spread of the disease if fogging machines were readily made available. The dengue-afflicted patients, most of them children of poor families, were confined at the Notre Dame Hospital here. City health officer Dr Abduliah Dumama allowed the use of their fogging machine after learning that dangue-carrying mosquitoes were prevalent in Parang town. Fernandez started soliciting cash to be ased to defray the patients' hospital and medicinal expenses. Charlie Selfase, PDI Mindanso Buresu

Literacy rate up

KORONADAL, South Cotabato - The simple literacy rate in South Cotabato went up by 6.24 percent to 95.45 percent in 2005 compared to 2004, Carmelita Cabarubias, alternative learning supervisor of the Department of Education here said. Cabarubias attributed the increase to the continued support of iocal governments and the private sector in the DepEd's effort to increase access to education. The DepEd in the province has embarked on a literacy program targeting out-of-school individuals. Anuiles Zonio, PDI Mindanzo Bureau

Bill on kids' welfare

GENERAL SANTOS CITY-A social welfare official here welcomed the recent passage by Congress of the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Bill. City sociawelfare and development officer Rebecca Magante said she hoped President Macapagal-Arroyo signs the bill into a law soon. She said this would result in the scrapping of about 70 percent of charges filed against chadren in conflict with the law. Under the bill children facing crimmal cases would be referred to charitable institutions or the social wefare office for rehabilitation. Instead of being falled. Apulles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau

UP class '66 reunion

MEMBERS of the University of the Pha ppines Class of 1966 will hold a reunion today at the University of the Philippines at Los Baños. The reunion, which starts at 8 a.m. will include morning merienda at Anest Tower, which is just before the UPLB gate, and visits to the Institute of Biotechnology for a demonstration of how virgin coconut oil is produced: the Dairy Training and Research Institute for a demonstration on how milk chaese and butter are processed, and the JPLB Flower and Garden Show. Members of the class who wish to join the reunion can sign up with Andrew Nocon (tel. 0918-9301529) or Dr. Lydia Rodr guez Arcellana (tel 9298226. 9318894 or 09209149374)

Spectators stand in sea water as they watch a reenactment of the victory of Lapu Lapu over Spanish colonizers led by Ferdinand Magellan. It was held at the Mactan Shrine in Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu.

Surigao judge sends 3 kidnappers to death row million in ransom TANDAG, SURIGAO DEL SUR— The victim's wife, Emeue, in-

Days after President Macapagal Arroyo commuted the death sentences of at least 1,000 inmates, a undge here sent at least three people to the death row.

Cantilan Regional Trial Court Judge Romeo Buenaflor found cousins Jovel Apole, Rolando Apole and Renato Apole guilty "beyond reasonable doubt" of the crimes of kidnapping and robbery with violence on Wednesday.

The three convicts were among the 10 people charged with the 2003 abduction of Japanese na tional Yasumusu Hashiba

Their seven co-accused had been cleared for lack of witnesses Based on court records, Hashiba.

who is married to a local, was kidnapped in the evening of Jan. 23, 2003 in Barangay Bunga, Lanuza The kidnappers, armed with pistols and a hand grenade, en-

forced the Japanese into a waiting vehicle the victim's cash and jewelry

worth P150,000. They later got in touch with the victim's family and demanded P3

within 20 days but not earlier than 15 days after the promulganon of judgment."

has been pushing for the scrapping of the death penalty arguing that only God has the right to take a life Ms Arroyo herself has supported tered the Hashiba residence and

stead filed charges against her hus-

bend's abductors, which forced

the process and pursued the kid-

napping charges against them.

Police arrested 10 suspects in

Buenaflor, known as the hang-

ing judge of Sungao del Sur, also

ordered the Apoleses to pay

Hashiba P75,000 in moral and

The INQUIRER learned that the

decision will be forwarded to the

Court of Appeals in Cagayan de

Oro City, "for automatic review

The Catholic Church hierarchy

them to free Hashiba.

exemplary damages

a review of the death penalty law.

Administration congressmen said they would work for the The kidnappers also fled with scrapping of the capital punishment although victims of heinous comes and their families want the penalty retained. Pacate, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Gov tags testimony on mercury as unethical

By Bobby Labalan

PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

SORSOGON CITY-GOV. RAUL Lee described as unethical the testimony of Nella Cortez-Maramba, professor emeritus of the University of the Philippines-Manila's (UP-Manila) Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, declaring that residents of five villages in Sorsobodies.

Lee said it was rude for the UP professor to render a testimony before the independent commission chaired by Sorsogon Bishop Arturo Bastes which has been investigating the effects of Lafayette's mining operations

"The UP study group had not yet submitted a report on the re-

government which commis-sioned them," said Lee.

High chemical content

Maramba was quoted as telling the Bastes commission that the result of their study revealed "high chemical content in the participants' bodies and food sources. These chemicals are harmful, especially lead, which gon had heavy metals in their may affect a person's IQ base-

The UP team was commissioned by the provincial government of Sorsogon to look into the health status of residents of coastal villages facing Pacific Ocean after mercury was detected in fish and sea water samples

Lee said the UP group should have furnished them a

suit of the study to the provincial copy of the report or at least schedule. informed them first of the result before making its release

> Another UP team, the UP-Natural Science Research Institute, was also commissioned by the provincial government but whose study result now seemed to be in conflict with the Maramba re-

Independent commission

Earlier, the governor called on the independent commission to spare the fishermen of Sorsogon from any harm which may adversely affect their livelihood if unverified reports are carelessly released to the public

Lee was invited by the commission to the hearing but begged off due to a conflict in

In a letter addressed to commission chair Bishop Bastes, the governor said the fish scare generated by the reports about mercury contamination was already gone and things had returned to normal

Anti-Lafayette

Lee said any effort by anti-Lafayette critics to close down the mining operation must not be done at the expense of the fishermen and residents of Sor-

More than 5,000 fishermen and hundreds of families depending on beach resort operations lost their livelihood due to the mercury scare.

A repeat of that situation would be catastrophic, Lee stressed.



E-LEARNING

Students of the Bernardo Lirio High School in San Pedro, Batangas and the Sta. Anastacla-San Rafael National High School were the beneficiaries recently of the Genyo E-Learning Management Program donated by the Bate Balani Foundation Inc. (BBFI), The donors and recipients posed for a photo. From left are Susan Castillo, Bernardo Lirio High School official; Jose Ma. Policarpio, Diwa Learning Systems vice president and other officials.





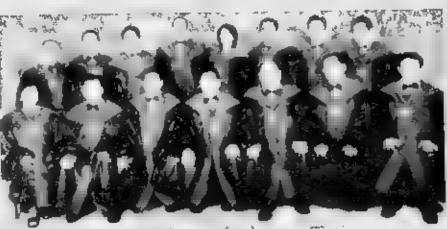


PHILIPPINE COLLEGE OF SURGEONS PHILIPPINE SOCIETY OF ANESTHESIOLOGISTS, INC. PHILIPPINE UROLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

Joint Midyear Convention

May 5-6,2006 Waterfront Cebu City Hotel and Casino, Lahug, Cebu City Providing Quality Peri-Operative Health Care Through Continuing Medical Education

In what is described as a historic first, the Philippine College of Surgeons (PCS), Philippine Society of Anesthesiologists (PSA) and the Philippine Urological Association (PUA), will jointly celebrate their Midyear Conventions in the "gateway to a thousand journeys", Cebu City. These three organizations agreed to bond together to address common concerns to benefit the surgical patient. The convention, appropriately titled " Multidisciplinary Approach to Peri- Operative Care", is on May 5 & 6, 2006 at the Waterfront Cebu City Hotel and Casmo. Also actively participating in this convention are the Philippine Association of Training Officers in Surgery (PATOS), the Philippine Association of Laparoscopic and Endoscopic Surgeons (PALES) and the Philippine Society of General Surgeons (PSGS).



PCS Board of Regents Scated from L-R: Doctors Josefina R. Almonte, Regent, Alex A. Erasmo, Secretary, Rey Melchor F. Santos, Vice President, Eduardo R. Guichalian, President; Stephen Sixto Siguan, Treasurer, Ray B. Malday and Maximo H. Simbulan

from L-R: Doctors Florencio Q. Lucero Jr., Jesus V. Valencia, Dominador M. Chiong Jr., Alfred H. Belmonte, Esperanza R. Lahoz, Antonio S. Say, Alejandro R. Garcia, and Isaac David E. Ampil II, Regents.



PCS Board of Governors Seated from L-R. Doctors Edgar A. Bultazar, Governor; Vedasto B. Lim, Vice-Chairman, Enrico P. Ragaza, Chairman, Maribel O. Du, Secretary; and Hector

M Santos Jr., Governor Standing from L-R, Doctors Beda R, Espineda, Renato Cirilo A, Ocampo, Rafael L. Joeson, Rhoderick M. Casis, and Rolando L. Canivel, Governors

Not in picture: Doctors Natividad A. Almezan-Aguiller, Eduardo R. Bautista, Cecilio Vicente T. Gempesaw, Alfredo M. Igama, Michael Y. Leh, Rex A. Madrigal, Michael E. Martinez, Edward A. Sarrosa, Jackson D. Soriano, Dures Fe D.E. Tagayuna, Ronald A. Yutangco, Governors.

The Organizing Committee working with their local counterparts designed a continuing medical education program that will deal with matters of mutual interest to the three specialty societies. The juxtaposition of the postures and viewpoints of the different disciplines on a given topic will certainly make for very interesting and informative sessions. The delegates will be treated to a healthy exchange of ideas, happy resolutions and consensus of opinions on Fluid Management, Blood Transfusion, Pain Control and Ethics and Judicial Matters. The sharing of knowledge and technology will contribute to the improvement in the delivery of quality surgical and anesthesia care. Moreover, the Social and Tourism Calendar, the Golf Tournament and the Fellowship Night are expected to renew the ties and rekindle the spirit of camaraderic and concern for members that will fortify the teamwork between surgeons and anesthesiologists.



Board of Directors, PSA

Seated from L-R. Doctors Ma. Zenarda M. Mariano , Treasurer , Theresa M. Alcantara, Vice President, Romulo A. Buzon Jr., President, Dulce A. La'O., Scoretary; and Eric V. Nagtalon. Immediate Past President.

Standing from L-R. Doctors Ma. Lilybeth R. Tanchoco, Roland S. Capito and Mary Ann R. Marcelo , Directors; Antonita M. De Pano , Regional Director for Luzon; Francis Jayson L. Villegas, Regional Director for Visayas, Florian R. Nuevo, Edwin John A. Cruz, and Joy Lust-Incrong, Directors, and John F Gomez, Regional Director for Mindanao.



PUA Executive Council Seated from L-R: Doctors David T Bolong, Auditor, Raul Winston P. Andutan, Member, Michael Y. Leb, President, and Anel A. Zerrudo,

Standing from L-R: Doctors Telesforo E. Gana Jr, Member, Dennis P Serrano, Treasurer, Jesus Benjamin L. Mendoza, Adviser, and Juliano Z.K. Pangarriban, Vice President.

This year marks the first joint venture between the PCS, PSA & PUA for a tri-specialty unidyear convention in Cebu. A long time in coming, it is still a most opportune and worthy enterprise to embark on. This undertaking is like a good book, once a page is turned, it cannot be closed.

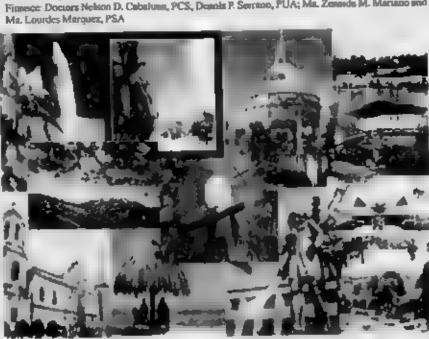


Committee on Conventions

Seuted from L-R: Doctors Rey Melchor P. Santos, Christman; Juliano ZK Panguniban, Vice President, PUA, Eduardo R. Getchellan, President, PCS; Romulo L. Buzon Jr., President, PSA, and Alex A. Erasmo, Secretary, PCS.

Standing from L-R. Ductors Jose Macarin V. Faylonn, Annual Clinical Congress; Armando C Crisostomo, CSE, Mr. Alvin G. Jalimuo, Umlah; Nadia Trinchesa, Rajah Tours; Manuel A. Oliveros It., Midyear Convention; Larry Reyes, PRMD Director, Unileb; and George KCT Ches.,

Not in picture: Doctors Stephen Sixto Sigum, Finance; Napoleon B. Alcedo Ir., 2007 Midyear Convenion; Jose Antonio M. Salud, 2007 Annual Clinical Congress; Gabriel L. Martinot, Publications, Pablo A. Cleus, Media Lanson; and Joel U. Macalino, Documentation. Task Force on Finnece: Doctors Nelson D. Cabatum, PCS, Donols P. Serraco, PUA; Ma. Zenarda M. Mariano and



TRAVELOGUE ADTO TA SA CEBU, BAI

Philippines, the birthplace Christianity in the Par East and the bibingka and bodbod of Mandaue City, Queen City of the South, beckons! It was called "Sugbu", a Visayan word meaning to "walk on water," - what people had to do when they arrived in that pre-Hispanic colonial trading center In 1521, Ferdmand Magellan brought to Cebu the Señor Santo Niño as a gift to then Queen Juana, the wife of Rajah Humabon, King of Cebu. The image was found miraculously intact and undamaged among the rums in 1565 by a second Spanish expedition led by Miguel Lopez de Legaspi. The Señor Santo Niño, the Patron Saint of Cebu and of the Philippines is now housed in the Basilica Minore del Santo Nino. Since 1980, every third Sunday of January, the yearly Sinulog festival and pilgrimage is held in its honor, Legaspi constructed Fort San Pedro, which now serves as a museum. park for leisure and townst destination. Magellan's Cross is located near the Basilica del Santo Nino, Colon St., the oldest street in Cebu, became a business district during the Spanish Colonial era and even after the second world war. Modern Cebu has practically shed off its image as a mere Spanish Trading outpost into a bustling lively industrial metropolis. This City prides itself with its delicious grant

CEBU ...the oldest city of the mangnes of Guadalupe, danggit, bulad, of lection, otap and resquilles of Lilean, world class guitars and sutukil (sugba, tinowa and kilaw) of Lapulapu City. Aside from the Waterfront Hotel and Casmo, the convention site, other hotels like the Marriott Hotel, Shangri-la Mactan, Plantation Bay Resort and the newly opened Park Lane International Hotel and Marco Polo Plaza Hotel serve as alternative sites for the delegates to stay. Malls have sprouted like the proverbial mushroom. The new places to go for some nightlife are the Crossroads and Banilad Town Square, CEBU ... the bustling Metropolis couched in a rustic provincial ambienco, rich in heritage and culture yet dynamic and progressive the "gateway to a thousand destinations" Adto to so Cebu, Bail

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. GREETINGS!

Hatel, Celm City

Part-operative Care

President

President

PCS-CEYC

, nagitiingkod para sa bayan.

MESSAGES

In bohalf of our respective governing bodies, it gives as great pleasure to welcome the Fallows, Delegates, Guerts, Families and Friends to the enchanting and captivating

This momentous event is an offirmation that our seemingly diverse, yet intimately associated organizations can focus on commonalities and hand together to address common concerns to benefit the

L' surgical patient. Our convention, appropriately titled

"Multidisciplinary Approach to Peri-Operative Care".

reels off on May 5-6, 2006 at the Waterfront Cebu City Hatel and Carina. We will deal with matters of metwol

interest like standardication of fluid management, resolving issues concerning blood transfusions and

pain control, and sharing expertise in ethics and Justicial matters. The exchange of tdeas and information will be a most fulfilling experience for the delegates. We also would like to acknowledge the participation of the newest affiliate societies of the PCS and the Philippine Association of Laparoscopic and Endoscopic Surgeous (the new name of the consolidated PAES and PSES) - and the Philippine Association of Training Officers in Surgery (PATOS). The Philippine Society of General Surgeons (PSGS) will conduct a half-day postgraduate course as well. He congratulate the Midyear Convention Committee, the PCS Cabu Eastern Playurs Chapter, the PSA Cebu Central Visayus Chapter and their counterparts in the PUA, for arranging a golf termement, on entertaining Pellowship Night and lots of free time after the sessions to balance out the academic side of the convention. These will provide as excellent opportunity to unwind, affirm and strengthen family and friendship bonds that have been stretched by the

continuing demands of the practice of surgery &;

the pharmocentrical industry for being a part of this

EDUARDO R. GATCHALIANI; MD, FPUA, FPCS

Mabuhay! We would like to welcome all our Fellows and guests to this first over Joint Midyear Convention of I site Philippine College of Surgeons (PCS), the Philippine Society of Amerikasiologists Inc. (PSA), and the Philippine Urological Association (PUA) to be held from May 5-6. 2006 at the Waterfront Ceine City Hotel & Casino, Cebu City. Our societies have agreed to come together to discuss common issues affecting us, ex well as to facter a closer and ptore harmonious relationship among our Fellans. Our convention's theme of "Multidisciplinary Approach to Peri-operative Care" is indeed very timely, and we are very more that our advances related to our own disciplines but also how to work together as a team for better health care delivery

We are indeed looking forward to your utmost participation and we are very sure that we will all enjoy

the hospitality and wonders of Cebu City. Our

Committee on Conventions has likewise prepared a

trariety of social and recreational activities which our

REY MELCHOR P. SANTOS, MD, FSGS, FPCS

Our whole hearted congratulations to the officers and members of the Philippine College of Surgeons,

Philippine Society of Anesthestologists and Philippine Urological Association for the initiation of this first Joint

Midyear Convention on May 5 & 6, 2006 at Materfront

Chapter and PCS Cebu Bassern Hayes Chapter, we

welcome all the Delegates and Guests from the three

Specialty societies. We will show everybody the Unity of

Fillpino specialist doctors who are willing to serve our

fellow countrymen with utmost excellence in

Manual B. Villamor St., M.D., FPSGS, P.P.C.S.

Cesar William T. Uratz Jr. MD, DPBA

PSA Cabu-Central Visayos Chapter

Mabuhay kaya, Filipino doctors na tapat no

In our little way, from PSA Celus Central Visayer

beautiful sewel of the Visayan Islands

ROMULO A. BUZON JR. MD, DPBA

MTCRAEL Y. LEH, MD, FPUA, FPCS

President, PSA

F Our Dear Colleagues,

President, PCS

President, PUA

for our patients.

families will surely ergoy.

See you all in Cebu City!

Overall Convention Chair PSA

Overdi Convention Chairman, PCS

THERESA M. ALCANTARA, MD, DPBA

ARIEL ZERRUM AD, PPUA, FPCS Overall Convention Chairman, PUA

convention. Let us all myoy the hospitality of this

We thank our benefactors, partners and friends in

City of Cabu to celebrate the first-ever Joint Midvear Convention of the Philippine College of Surgeons (PCS). Philippine Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc. (PSA) and the

Philippine Unalogical Association (PUA).

In behalf of the Philippine College of Surgeons and The Philippine Society of Anesthesiologists, Cobie - Eastern Visayus Chapter, we would like to extend our heartfelt felicitations and warmest reception to all delayates and guests of this first joint midwear convention of the PCS, PSA and PUA.

As co-hosts of this grand event, we hope that you will all have a very fruitful and enjoyable stay in Cebu City. With this year's thema: "Multidisciplinary Approach to e Peri-operative Care", we assure everyone that we have peads all the necessary preparations in order to make this joint midyear convention successful. He know that it is through conventious such as this that we will be able to thow our unity in our quest for excellence in the quality of our service.

In the true spirit of the Sughustion we bid you all: MAINITONG PAG-ABOT, UG MABUHI KITANG

ELMERS, JABAGAT, M.D., FPSGS, FPCS **Fice President** PCS Cebu-Rastegy Msayas Chapter

? CLIVE ROLAND Y. FERMIN, M.D., DPRA Vice President

- PSA Cebu Central Visayes Chapter

Angkhockoutsa 7 a S U I I T D a



i jeres

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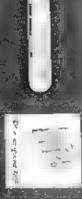












Promo períod is until May 21, 2006





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MORE woes for suspect Lourdes de Guzman.

Taxmen run after 'Pajero Lady'

Liabilities totalled P6.4-M for 2 years

By Cynthia D. Balana and Michelle V. Remo

IT'S NOW THE TAXMEN'S TULN to run after the "Pajero lady."

Ma. Lourdes Ramos de Guzman, who earned the tag for using the vehicle in her illegal activities, was charged by the Bureau of Internal Revenue and Depart ment of Finance yesterday for failing to pay Pi 9 million in Benz. 2003 and P4.4 million in 2004, for a total tax hability of P6.48

against De Guzman, who was also known as Malou de Guzman, Josephine Garcia and Mary Josephine Garcia were filed in the Department of Justice.

De luxe vehicles

Based on information provided by the police to the BIR, De Guzman was a legedly involved in illegal activities with the "Akyat Bahay," "Salisi" and "Budol-budoi" gangs

The money she had acquired from her illegal activities was reportedly used to acquire, among others, several expensive vehicles, including a Ford juries.

Escape, a white Pajero, a white mmi-Pajero, a red Ford F-150 truck, a black Jaguar, a gray Mitsubishi Space Gear, a green Suzuki Vitara, a blue Lancer, a black Honda Accord, a black Mitsubishi Outlander, a white BMW, a green Honda Civic, a silver Honda Jazz, a green Starex, a red Mitsubishi Lancer, a pınk Toyota Altis and a Mercedes

Obligation

BIR Commissioner Jose Mario tax evasion charges Bunag said that even it be du man had obtained her income and vast acquisitions from illegal means, she was still obliged to declare her income and pay taxes.

De Guzman had no other legal means to support such acquisitions, the BIR said.

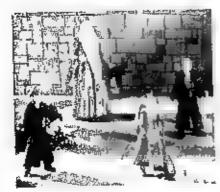
The suspect bought expensive vehicles in her name or other known aliases although she did not file any tax return until 2005, the agency added.

Other charges

De Guzman had also been charged with robbery, estafa, theft, murder and physical m-

WHAT'S INSIDE

Woman shot dead in teen gang riot



Falue Harry Potter Loys seized in Tondo

■ ABB hitman found guilty of killing /A22 Manila councilor's son

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AMENDING DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR NO. 2003-04-004 CREATING THE EXPANDED RURAL ELECTRIFICATION **PROGRAM TEAM**

WHEREAS the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001 or "EPIRA," eracted in June 2001 declared as policy of the State the lots) electrification of the country and at the same allowed the participation of the private sector in missionary

WHEREAS, pursuant to the EPSRA, the Government has set the target of thieving 100% berangey electrification by 2008 and 90% household connection by

WHEREAS, the Letter of Sector Development Program jointly tasked by the Department of Finance (DOF) and Department of Energy (DOE) or 07 Merch 2003 commits to the implementation of key reforms in the rural power sector;

WHEREAS, on 1 April 2003, the DOS issued Department Order No. 2003-04-004

creating the Expended Rural Electrification Program Team ("CR Team") to manage the implementation of rural and missionary electrification program for the purpose of achieving the country's total electrification objectives;

WHEREAS, in view of the foregoing, the OOE (f) completed the 2005-2009 Missionary Electrification Development Plan which outlined the specific policies, strategies and recincularur for the implementation of the country's Expended Rural Electrification (ER) Program through greater private suctor participation (PSP); (t) issued on 26 May 2004 Department Circular No. 2004-06-005 which streamlines and automitizes the proof of a deathball to the electrification of minutes and essued on 26 May 2004 Department Circular No. 2004-06-006 which areamhines and retionalizes the grant of subsidies in the electrification of missionary areas using Solar Photovolatic (PV) Systems"; and (iii) issued on 18 June 2004 Department Circular No. 2004-06-006 and on 12 December 2006 Department Circular No. DC2005-12-011 prescribing the qualification criteria and participation guidefines for the Qualified Tricd Party (QTP) pursuant to Section 59 of the EPIRA and as detailed in Rule 14 of the implementing Rules and Regulations of EPIRA with the objective of pursuing PSP Program in missionary areas.

WHEREAS, there is a necessity to refocus and strengthen the integrated and synchronized approach to rural and missionery electrification taking into account the institutional changes in the rural power sector as well as the recent policy issuances of the DOE to ensure and accelerate total electrification in a sustainable and holistic.

NOW, THEREFORE, the DOE hereby amends Department Order No. 2003-04-004 to reinforce the ER Team in the management of rural/missionary electrification

Section 1. Composition of the ER Program Team. The composition of the ER Program-Oversight Committee (ER Program-OC), the ER Program Technical Working Group (ER Program-TWG) and the ER Program Secretariat are hereby reconstituted.

(A) Oversight Committee (ER Team-OC)

Oversight Chair: Malinda L. Ocampo, Undersecretary DOF

Afternate Chair Edithe S. Bueno, Administrator - National Electrification Administration (NEA)

Director DOE - Electric Power Industry Management Burses

Director, DOE - Energy Policy and Planning Bureau (EPPB)

Director, DOE - Energy Utilization and Menegement Bureau

Department Menager - NPC-SPUG

Yo ensure consistency in policies and achieve effective collaboration, the following to ensure consistency in posses and better effective consistency, we salewing government agencies and their duly nomineted representatives, this be requested to join the ER Team-OC ashinonary members. (i) Nabonis Economic and Development Authority (NEDA): (ii) Department of Finance (DOF); (iii) Department of Budget and Management (DBM), and (M) other stakeholders in rural/missionary electrification including the Philippine National OS Company (PNOC), PNOC-Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) and private power producers also involved in electrification.

(B) Inter-Acency Technical Working Group (ER Team-TWG)

A Technical Worlding Group (TWG) shall provide assistance to the Oversight Committee and asset in the development of sub-programs, review and assessment of existing programs and formulate strategies for the efficient implementation of the ER Program Memberahip of the ER TWG shall be comprised of the following agencies and

Co-Chair

Director DOE-EPIMB

Division Manager, Corporate Planning Department NEA Division Chief, Rural Electrification Administration and Management Division (DOE EPHMS-REAMD)

Division Chief, EUMB-Renewable Energy Management Division (DOE-REMD)

Division Manager - Project Management, NPC-SPLIG Division Manager Strategic Planning, NPC-SPUG

Representative, DOE-EPPB

Representative, Infrastructure Staff, NEDA Representatives from other ER Program partners and state holders

The ER Program TWG shall form the following Committees to oversee the various functions of the ER TWG. The members of the Committees shall be selected by the ER Program TWG on the basis of qualifications/guideless approved by the ER.

 Committee on Policy

 (a) Identify the objectives of the ER Program and develop guidelines and specific strategies for its implementation.
 (b) Conduct regular assessment of the implementation of all program components and activities, identify gaps and issues, and recomment it is continuation or passation of certain programs as may be consistent with less and Constitutional colleges.

 and Government policies, Review existing ER policies and guidelines and evaluate/assess their

effectiveness at ensuring the ER largets are achieved as planned and in a (d) Develop policies to address the sesses/gaps affecting program

implementation; and

(e) Provide institutional support to the program implementation.

Committee on Program Implementation and Operations.

(a) Exacts coordination among the ER Team;

(b) Actively morelor the implementation of programs and projects vis-e-vis the grisetones/targets set and, in the regard, prepare and subcell a monthly monitoring report to the Oversight Committee highlighting the critical problems/ issues that are prevent or hinder the threaty implementation of programs and projects, with copies of such report provided also to the implementing energy for the report/foreignment the Project Controlling. agencyries for the project/program and the Policy Committee: Coordinate closely with the Policy Committee to ensure that the necessary

contribute in the FER Program guidelines, strategies, and tergets are made given the problems item to problems identified during actual monitoring. Plan and set milestones for the implementation of the ER program components and activities based on the objectives and strategies developed.

by the policy committee. Implement specific objectives and activities of the ER Program;

Assist in the promotion of the ER Program.

Prepare reports, presentation/breting meterials. EC documents, and other documents, the representation of the ER Program; and Collect information relevant to the ER Program and maintain in a detabase

Committee on investment and Financing

Identify budgetary requirements in implementing the ER Program and coordinate with DBM and other donor agencies.

Identify and harmonize actioning financing schemes set by various players implementing the ER Program.

identify investment apportunities and assist in the development of proposals.

(dentify financing and investment issues and propose policies/strategies to address such jasues

(C) Secretaria/Support Staff (ER Team-Secretarial)

The DOE-REAMD will serve as the ER Team-Secretarial. It shall be assisted by at the minimum of two (2) representatives from DOE-EPP8, DOE-EUMB, NEA

Section 2. Responsibilities of the ER Program Team. The scope of responsibilities of the ER Program Team is hereby expanded to include the review and endorsement of projects and activities in relation to the Question Third Party (QTP) program that require authorization from the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC). In this regard the Technical Working Group formed under DOE Department Circular No.DC2005-12-011 shall inform the ER Team OC of its recommendations and regularly report on the progress and development of the PSP in rural/missionery areas

The ER Program Team shall also serve as the deciriphouse of all rural and missionary electrification initiatives in the country, including those supported by bilateral-multifateral-agencies and denor-entities, for the approval of the OOE Secretary

The ER Program Team shell request assistance and information from other entires such as OTPs, financing institutions, non-government organizations, and private entires, whenever necessary to provide traights and valuable inputs to the ER Program Team in the exercise of its reendate.

Section 3. Creation of the Unified Electrification Subsidy Sub-Committee (UESC). In compliance with DOE, DC No. 2004-05-005 im UESC was created to operate uniter the supervision of the ER Program Team. The UESC shall identify any existing subsidy design in all rural and measionary electrification projects, including solar PV systems installutors, and recommend to the ER oversight Committee and this appropriate guidelines for the provision of subsidy to rural electrification projects, including those using solar PV systems, for the formulation of recommendations to mid approval of the DOE Section 6 subsidies of the provision of the sometime of recommendations to mid approval of the DOE Section, and provided in Section 3 of DOE DC No. 2003-04-904, shall be expanded to include projects and activities initiated by or involving private mediar participants, including OTPs.

Section 5, Miscellaneous, Hisads of the concerned divisions/bursaus and agencies in Section 1 histori shall arrorn the DOE in wrong, within the (5) days from liceusnics of the Circular of the names of their respective representatives. The Oversight Committee shall meet at least once every month commanding not later then the catendar month immediately following the effectivity of this Circuits: The Oversight Committee shall set the achedule, of meetings of the other committees established under Section 5 of this Circular

Section 8. No repeal of amendment. Other provisions of DOE DC 2003-04-034 not otherwise inconsistent with the Circular shall remain read and in effect until revoked, modified or lutther emended

This amended Department Circular shell take effect after publication in spaper of general carculation.

sesued this 7th day of April 2008, Taguig City.

(919)-April 29, 2006

RAPHAEL P.M. LOTILLA

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER-

SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2006

Teen gangs clash in Manila

By Margaux C. Ortiz

A DAY AFTER AN ALLEGED member of a teenage gang died in Pandacan, Manila, a woman was shot dead in Tondo after she looked out of the window during a brawl between rival groups early yesterday morning.

SPO2 Eduardo Cabal of the Manila Police District Homicide Division identified the victim as Meria Dumaycos, 36, of 42-C Sto. Nino St. in Herbosa, Tondo.

Investigation showed that a commonon outside Dumaycos' house had roused her from sleep at around 2 a.m. When the victim looked out of

the window to see what was go-

ing on, a bullet hit her on the left side of her forehead. Police said the victim was declared dead on arrival at Gat An-

dres Bonifacio Hospital. Authori-

ties are hunting down the still unidentified teenage suspects behind the riot, Cabal said

On Thursday, a 17-year-old boy was shot dead while two others were injured when a free-forall erupted between two rival gangs in Pandacan. Earlier this year, Manila policemen had arrested two musors in connection with the death of a high school student in Pandacan on Jan. 27

Less than a month after the Pandacan incident, the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) had filed murder charges against another teenager who stabbed to death a 41-year-old man in Tondo.

NBI Interpol Supervising Agent Dominador Villanueva III said the 17 suspects, all members of True Blue Style Gang, have been "a serious community problem" for the past three years.

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3. The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

(Sgd.) ANNA VICTORIA J. SOMBONG, M.D.

1 Issuance of Sid Documents | May 15-17, 2006

BAC Activities

2 Pre-bid Conference

(2014-April 29 & May 6, 2004)

Opening of Bits

d.) Conventional X-Ray Machine, 500 MA, 150KV e.) R/F X-Ray Machine, 900 MA, 150KV

on a lease-to-own scheme for a fixed term of five (5) years.

The West Visayas State University Medical Center (MVSUMC) through

his Buts and Awards Committee (BAC) invites bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for Supply, Delivery and Installation of One (1) lot of

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested

Bidders from WVSUMC Supply Office and upon payment of nonrefundable

les in the amount of Five Thousand Pesos Only (PS,000.00) to the West Visayas State University Medical Center Cashier, The Bidding Documents

shalf be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized

Submission of Bids shall be on May 30, 2006 not later than 9:00 AM at

WVSUMC, Conference Room, Ground Floor The aligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals will be opened immediately in the presence of Bidder's representatives who choose to attend.

All particulars relative to eligibility, bidding, and evaluation of bids and award of contract shall be governed by R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

WVSUMC reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not to award the contract for any justifiable and reasonable.

ground where the award of the contract will not redound to the benefit of

the Government, and WVSUMC shall not be hable whatsoever to offset

expenses or losses the bidder may insur in the preparation of this bid.

Schedule

May 18, 2006; 9 AM, Conference Room

May 30, 2006; 9 AM, Conference Room

With Erika Sauler, trainee

(1 set) (1 set)

(1 set) (1 set)

METROBRIEFS*

Fake Harry toys

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation (NBI) setzed P2 million worth of counterfelt Harry Potter toys during simultaneous raids conducted on Wednesday. NB) agents seized the take toys from a sales outlet and warehouse in Tondo, Manila, owned by SCE Trading Corp. and DNI Properties Management Corp. NBI agents led by special investigator Adjutor Larosa confiscated 1,737 pieces of assorted toys, packaging materials, receipts and involces. The NB1 had placed the establishments under surveitiance and conducted test buys after Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc. filed a complaint. Charges of unfair competition and trademark infringement have been lodged. against the owners of the shops for distributing and seiling the counterfelt products. Margaux C. Ortiz

UST homecoming

IN celebration of its 395th founding anniversary, the Liniversity of Santo Tomas, through the council of alumof presidents chalred by Felino "Jun" Palafox Jr., and the UST Public and Alumni Affairs Office, will hold its grand alumni homecoming today at the Resta Pavilion of the Manila Hotel. Registration starts at 5 p.m. The event, with the theme "Connecting, Converging, Building Bridges towards UST 2011" aims to gather all atumni and faculty of the university's colleges and schools. For tickets and datails, please contact the Public and Atummi Affairs Office at tell nos. 7313544 or 4061611 local 8315 or e-mail paao@mnf.ust.edu.ph

Gernale slay suspect gets 30 years in prison

By Tina G. Santos

A MEMBER OF THE ALEX BONcayao Brigade (ABB) hit squad was found guilty on Thursday of killing the son of a Manila councilor more than 11 years ago.

Judge Teresa Soriaso of the Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 27 sentenced Julio Villanueva alias Allan Dino to 30 years in prison for killing Jay Gernale, son of Councilor Roger Ger-mans at large, shot him.

nale. The court also ordered Villanueva to pay P197,000 in damages to the victim's heirs.

Gernale was only 24 years old and the vice president of his family's construction company when he was killed on Jan. 30, 1995

The victim was driving on J. Zamora Street in Pandacan, Manila, when the accused, with other suspects, including a certain Honesto Naceno, who re-

Rape victim should be allowed to have abortion

THERE OUGHT TO be a law in the country that allows the abortion of a fetus that is a product of incestuous rape.

Nena (not her real name), a frail 13-yearold girl, is four months pregnant, a victim of rape by her own father. She was brought to me at "Islambong mo kay Tulfo" by her mother.



Nena, who will be in high school when school opens in June, looks every bit a girl barely entering her teens. She was just starting to menstruate four months ago when her father raped her:

The father ran away after Nena told her mother about the rape. But sending the father to jail is not only Nena's problem. Her other problem, if you ask me, is how she will be abie to take care of an offspring that will surely be mentally and physically handicapped. A child that is a product of incest will have mental and physical defects.

asked some lawyers—among them Vicente Chudian and police Director Marceio Ele Jr about the possibility of having the fetus aborted. They said stud it was illegal. But how could our

laws be so uncaring about the stigma to be carried by a girl who will soon bear a child who is both a and son/daughter brother/sister?

In the United States, the law allows women who are rape victims to abort the fetus.

US AMBASSADOR Kristie Kenney said in a speech before the American Chamber of Commerce that corruption was one of the reasons preventing economic development in the Philippines. Kenney should be assured that the new Ombudsman, Merceditas Gutierrez, is bent on deaning up the government of threves and misfits. Since she took over

as the government corruption watchdog, Gutierrez has dismissed 23 erring government officials and suspended 33 others. Not like her prede-

Simeon cessor. Marcelo, who was a slowpoke. Marcelo did the country a favor by resigning since he was not up to the юр.

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Blair hit with a week's shower of political woes

threes this week for Prime Minister Tony Blair, whose increasingly unpopular government suddenly found itself dealing with three wildly dissimilar but equally embarrassing problems, each involving a different Cabinet minister.

in power for nine years and has been prime minister's most unpopular and fact, been set free over the last sev-

LONDON—BAD LUCK CAME IN particularly skilled at deflecting trouble. But these knest difficulties have come a week before local elections across the country that will, inevitably, be taken as a referendum on voters arringles toward the Labor Party.

The first problem concerns Charles Clarke, who as home secre-Blair's Labor government has been tary presides over a majority of the

important programs, including law and order and immigration policy

Those two policies crashed awkwardly this week when it emerged that for unexplained reasons, 1,023 foreigners who had been convicted of crimes and were supposed to be considered for deportation after serving prison sentences had, in

know what happened to them.

Clarke, who admitted knowing about the problem for 10 months, and who said publicly that "I have failed," is facing a chorus of opposition calls for his resignation even as Blair says he does not plan to give up his home minister.

The second problem is an old-

other Biair stalwart, Deputy Prime Health Service, the reform of Minister John Prescott. On Wednesday, The Daily Mirror reported that Prescott, 67, an old-style Laborite loved by the left wing of the party for his blunt-spoken ways and gruff manner, had a torrid affair with a secretary in his office.

The third issue concerns prob-

en years-and no one seemed to fashioned sex scandal involving an-lems bubbling up in the National which has been one of the cornerstones of Blair's legislative program. In its first years in office, Blair's Labor government poured billions of dollars into the hearth service, allowing hospitals to raise salaries, hire new doctors and nurses and open new wards. NYT

Male circumcision seen as a potent weapon vs

JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA-FOR well over a decade, southern Africans have betfled the spread of AIDS with everything from condoms and abstinence campaigns to doses of anti-retroviral drugs for pregnant women-and generally found themselves losing.

Now a growing number of clinicians and policymakers in the region are pointing to a simple and possibly potent weapon against new infections: circumcision for men.

Armed with new studies suggesting that male circumcision can reduce the chance of HIV infection in men, and perhaps in women, health workers in two southern African na-

JOSEPHINE BAKER, US ICON

Josephine Baker strikes a pose during her Ziegfeld Follies

performance of "The Conga" on the Winter Garden Theater stage in

New York, Feb. 11, 1936. An exhibit in St. Louis where she was born

segregated US in the '20s to become an international superstar and

100 years ago highlights the career of the black entertainer who left a

broadly available to meet what they call a burgeoning demand for them.

The validity of the approach is still being tested. But in Lusaka, Zambia, surgeons began offering circumcisions for about \$3 some 18 months ago and are urging the government to expand the service across the country.

Dr. Kasonde Bowa, a urologist at the hospital, says about 400 patients a month request the procedure-eight times as many as the surgeons can accommodate. "One reason we decided to set up this service was the increasing evidence in the research in relation to re-

tions are pressing to make circumcisions ducing HIV," he said. "The evidence is very strong."

In Swaziland, the Health Ministry has trained doctors in circumcision, responding to what it called a garge in desire for the procedure. Studies indicate that circumcision may protect against HIV, the ministry said, adding that the service should be more widely available.

Other policymakers in the region are holding back, waiting for direction from the World Health Organization. Officials there say the evidence so far, while intriguing, is not definitive enough to call for a shift in strategy on HIV prevention.



ACCUSED BABY KILLER Sabine FL, a German mother accused of killing nine newborn babies over a decade and burying them in flower pots, went on trial Thursday.

WORLDBRIEFS

US eyes nuke cooperation pact with Russia

WASHINGTON-The United States is discussing the possibility of a civilian nuclear energy agreement with Russia that could help wean Moscow away from cooperation with Iran, according to US officials. In recent interviews, several US officials said a possible nuclear energy accord with Moscow Is under review. Such an agreement would be a significant change in US policy, which now prohibits most nuclear cooperation with Russia because of Moscow's phyotal role in building fracts \$800-million nuclear power plant at

Construction begins at Twin Towers site

NEW YORK-Buildozers runnfiled into a giant pit on Thursday to begin building a new skyscraper to replace the World Trade Center in an act New York's governor said symbolized the city's corneback from the Sept. 11 attacks. Work on the Freedom Tower at the World Trade Center site in Lower Manhattan began a day after developer Larry Silverstein and the land owner, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, resolved long-running acrimonious disputes over money, security and design. The 540-meter (1,776-foot) tower will be among the tellest in the world. The size will include three other high rises plus a residential tower that will surround a memorial, museum and cultural center dedicated to what relatives of the Sept. 11 victims consider a sacred site. Construction is scheduled to be finished by 2011 or 2012.

Judges fail to resolve Thailand crisis

BANGKOK—Thailand's top judges falled Friday to reach an agreement on multilying this month's elections after the king urged them to help out an end to a months-long political crisis, an official said. The chief justices of the country's top times counts met for less than two hours to discuss the crisis that has gripped Thailand, sent tens of thousands into the streets and forced Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra to step aside. Speaking on behalf of the judges, Charan Pakdithanalod said all they had agreed to do for now was to speed up deliberations on a dozen cases already filed in the three courts contesting the fairness of the election process. They had been expected to decide on the validity of the elections or clear legal huntles paving the way for parliament to open and form a new government.



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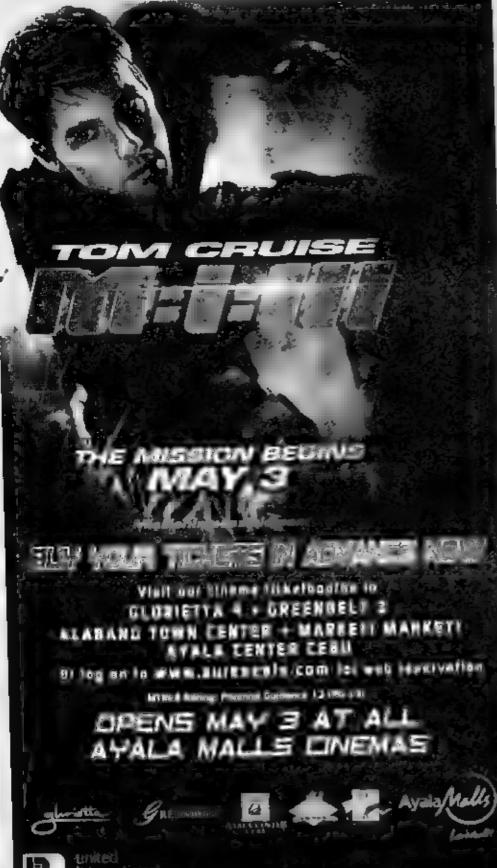
Prospective Bidders who are issued bid documents are required to attend the Pre-Bid Conference to be held at the HROD Seminar Room on May 08, 2006, starting at 9:00 A.M.

Deadtine for submission of the accomplishment Pre-Qualification Documents is on or before 3:00 P.M. of May 11, 2006.

MWSI reserves the right to reject any or all bid without offering any reason, waive any and all informalities therein and award the contract to one or more bidders under any circumstances which are deemed most advantageous to the company.

> (Sgd.) LUIS Z. LERMA Manager, Purchasing Dept.

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Likewise, the importation of chips and other Poker paraphernalia (e.g. chips and game tables), which are classified as "gambling outfits," is prohibited under the Customs and Tariffs Code.

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueço

IAEA likely to find Iran defying UN

Report of world nuclear watchdog could unleash sanctions on Tehran

VIENNA—THE WORLD'S NUCLEAR WATCHDOG riched enough uranium to fuel lution aimed at corralling its nu-richment, Iran is steaming ahead," said world leaders would look for is likely to confirm in a report to the UN Security Council on Friday that Iran has flouted demands to stop enriching uranium, a verdict that could unleash moves to hit Tehran with sanctions.

Agency chief Mohamed KiBarades was also expected to say Iran was still stalling IAEA inquiries into its nuclear work, the other salient issue cited in a 30-

International Atomic Energy day Council deadline for Iranian cooperation that expires on Fri-

> But Iranian defiance has only hardened over the last month, with Tehran saying it has en-

power plants for the first time and is researching a machine to enrich even faster, adding that its nuclear drive was irreversible.

In the last two days before the report, Iran has vowed to hit US targets worldwide if attacked by Washington, which has not ruled out war as a last resort to rein in

And Iran's UN envoy said on Thursday Tehran would not heed a looming Security Council reso-

grams posed no threat to international peace and security, as Western leaders contend

"If the Security Council decides to take decisions that are not within its competence, then fran does not feel obliged to obey" framan Ambassador Javad Zarif told reporters. Diplomats anticipated no big

surprises in the report.

"FIBarades obviously will have to report that far from suspending en-

ed to the Vienna-based IAEA.

Diplomats said questions persisted over framan research on advanced "P-2" centrifuges, documents found that show how to design an atomic bomb core, and intelligence reports of links between processing of uranium ore, high-explosives tests and a missile warhead design.

Mark Fitzpatrick, nuclear analyst at the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London,

any substantiation in the report of Iran's claims to rapid progress toward mastering the enrichment

"Answers to such questions wil. be important in helping the world understand the degree of urgency of the crisis and scope for diplomacy. If the IAEA cannot say much about Iran's progress, then policymakers will rely more on worst case scenarios," Fitzpatrick told Reuters.

Nepal king appoints new PM

KATMANDU—NEPALS Gyanendra formally named a new prime minister on Thursday as Maoist rebels began a threemonth ceasefire that brought hope of an end to decades of unrest in the Himalayan kingdom.

The king appointed 84-yearold Girija Prasad Koirala after he was picked earher in the week by the seven-party opposition aldance as the man they wanted to hold the reins of power when parhament reconvenes on Friday.

But Korrala was unable to attend his own swearing-in ceremony on Friday morning because of bronchuts, relatives and officials said.

The decision to postpone his swearing-in means that parliament, due to open in the afternoon for the first time in four years, is unlikely to make any substantive decisions.

Koırala's daughter Sujata said her father had bronchitis and was

KING on antibiotics. He had also been given oxygen and a saline drip on Thursday, but his health was gradually improving.

"He is an old man, he is taking rest," she told Reuters outside his room. "The only problem is that it was too hectic a schedule and he is tired."

Political institutions in Nepal were mothballed four years ago and King Gyanendra seized absolute power for himself in February 2005, osterisibly due to the failure of the government to quell the Maoist revolt.

This all changed on Monday when King Gyanendra agreed in a televised address Monday to reassage parliament, buckling after 19 days of protests on the streets of the capital.

He went on to ask the opposition to choose a new prime minister while crowds flooded the streets-claiming a "people's victory" in their struggle against the king-and the capital Katmandu began to return to normal.

"His Malesty (the) King has appointed Girija Prasad Koirala as the new premier upon recommendation from the seven agitating political parties," a statement from the royal palace said.

The Maoist rebels first rejected the king's offer to reconvene parhament after weeks of street protests, saying it did not go far enough after nearly 15 months of his absolute rule.

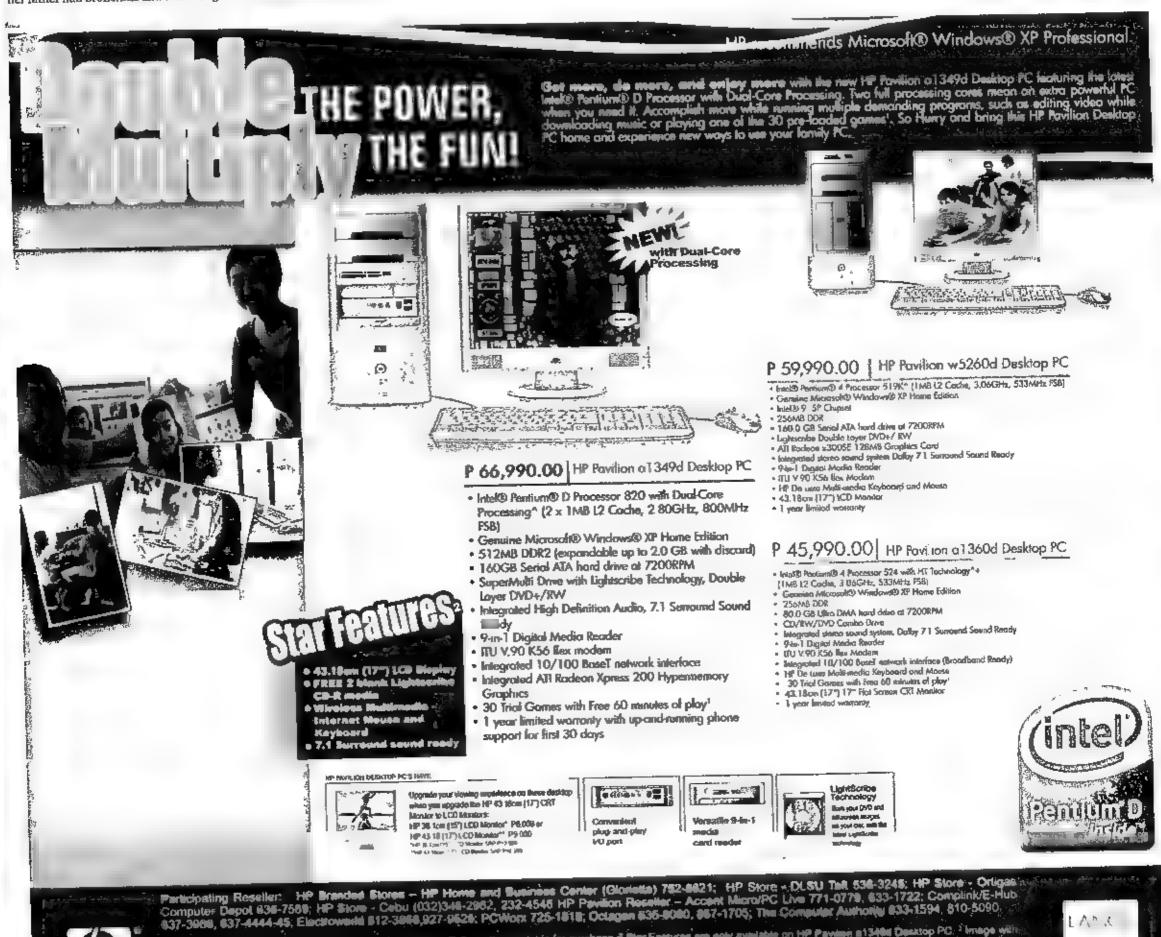
But in a statement early Thursday, leader Prachanda said the rebels would halt offensive operations after a bloody 10-year insurgency that has left more than 12,500 dead.

"Our party once again declares a unilateral ceasefire, effective immediately, for three months," said Prachanda.

The rebel army would stop at tacking security services, but would remain in active defense position," said a statement from the Maoist leader. AFP Reuters



PRO-DEMOCRACY activists listen to speeches at a rally called by opposition parties at Ratna Park in Katmandu, Nepal, April 27. Tens of thousands of Nepalis gathered in central Katmandu to hear leaders of the new government speak a day before parliament was to reconvene. Nepal's communist rebels have declared a three-month ceaselire after weeks of bloody protests. At center is the Nepalese flag.



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HOPE PBA ALL-STARS

Canaleta still king of dunks

GAMES TOBAY (Xavier University Gym) 5 p.m.—Legends Three-Point Shootout 8 p.m.—North vs South All-Star Game

By June Navarro

CAGAYAN DE ORO-KG CANALETA MADE it two-in-a-row while the third time's a charm for Will Antonio, especially in a contest of shooting threes.

Canaleta won the title with little fanfare, knocking Red Bull's Cyrus Baguio in the finals of the slam dunk competition in the side event of the 2006 Hope PBA Ali-Star Weekend at the Xavier University gym here.

Baguio, the 2004 slam king, caught the leather in mid-air after a bounce but blew the stylish try in the process. He got a re-dunk and scored 44. But Canaleta already scored a perfect 50 in his

first attempt on the way to retaining his title. Antomo's win was a little more dramatic.

The Coca-Cola guzmer defeated San Miguel sniper Olsen Racela to finally crown himself three-point king.

Playing in his third shoot-out contest, Antonio nailed the second ball of the final rack to provide the clincher against Racela.

The 6-foot-3 Antonio has joined the event twice before. He was seventh in his rookie year in 1988 and wound up second behand Boyet Per-

in the other events, Talk 'N Text's Willie Miller bear 2005 winner Topex Robinson in the obstacle challenge. Miller made it a double when he topped the trick-shot contest.

Later in the night, the Sophomores defeated the Rookies, 133-123, in the Blitz game.

Meanwhile, Marc Caguioa will be fined at least P20,000 by the PBA Commissioner's Office for failing to attend the functions in the All-Star Week sponsored by Sumbole, Air21, Chowking, Mentos, Accel, Xtreme Magic Sing and Welcoat Paints.



All and a second spills. PROTAGONISTS: Manny Pacquiao (left) and Oscar Larios strike a pose at yesterday's press conference. AUGUST DELACRUZ

Super fight offered free; Pacquiao training in US

By Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor

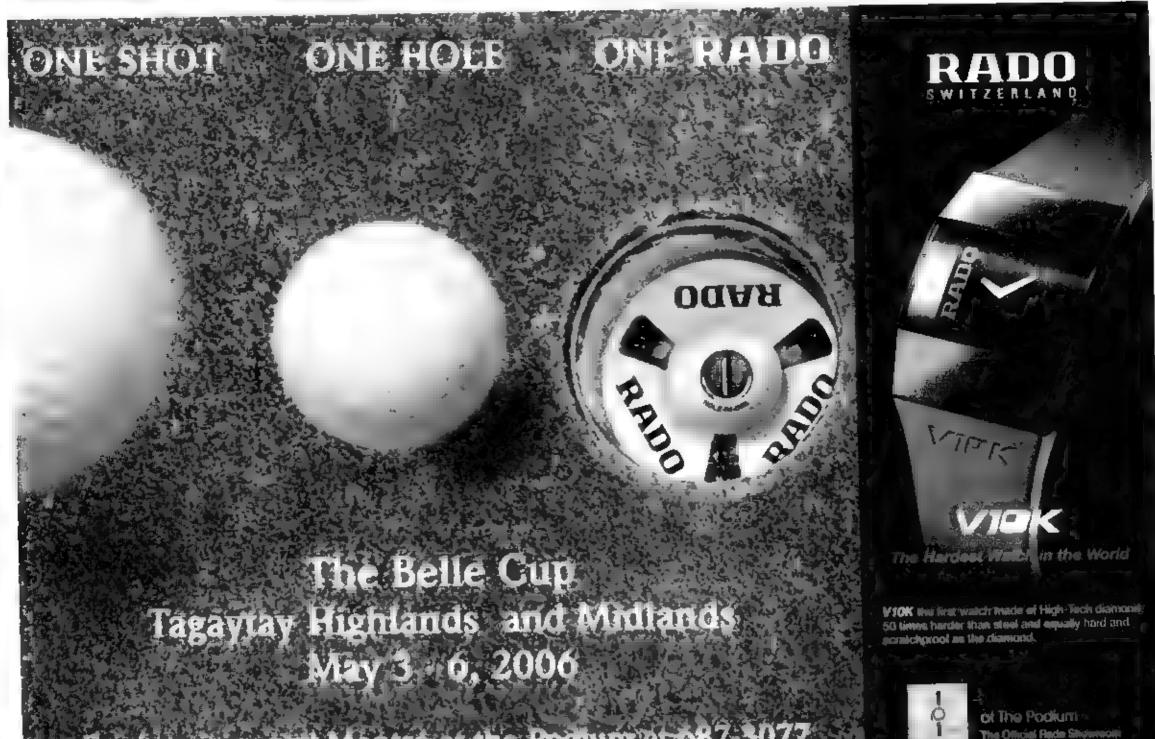
FIRST, THE GOOD NEWS, MANNY PACQUIAO WILL train in the Unsted States, after all.

Now, a better, more exciting information: ABS-CBN is giving away general admission tickets worth P2.5 million to those who want to watch the July 2 fight between Pacquiao and Oscar Larios of Mexico at the Araneta Coliseum.

Pacquiao had initially expressed his desire to skip training in the US for the Larios fight but yesterday, the Fil.pino boxing hero decided to drop the plan following a man-to-man conference with trainer Freddie Roach, who came all the way from California

Pacquiao, according to manager Nick Khan, should be in Los Angeles on May 13, return to the Philippines on June

SUPER/ A26





Jewels gun for share of lead vs Titans

STANDINGS W R. or Shine Montaña Toyota Otis G. Goose Magnolla Hapee-PCU Harbour TemTech **GAMES TODAY**

(Oliverez Sports Center) 2 p.m.—TeleTech vs Montaña

4 p.m.—Granny

Goose ve Magnolla

AFTER YIELDING THE SOLO LEAD TO RAIN or Shine in the PBL Unity Cap, the Montaña Jewels will try to recover their winning groove versus struggling newcomer TeleTech Titans today at the Olivarez Sports Center in Parañaque City

The Jewels will again vie for a piece of the top at 2 p.m. behind the leadership of Alex Compton and Proilan Baguion.

Granny Goose and Magnolia Ice Cream, meanwhile, will try to overcome their surprisingly erratic performances this conference. Toting similar 4-4 cards, both teams will vie for their first back-to-back victories at 4 p.m.

Coach Koy Banal remains hopeful that his Spinners, last conference's champion, will find

*Our game has been on and off, so we hope to be more consistent," said Banal after the Spinpers opened their second-round campaign with a 74-65 triumph against Harbour Ceztter.

"We're just waiting for our back-to-back wins, that's our hump that we have to overcome."

The Tortillos are expected to turn to big man JR Quifiahan, Kelvin dela Peña and Jett Latomo, who topscored with 16 points in their recent 66-54 win over Hapee-PCU.

The Jewels, who sport a second-best 6-2 card, are coming off a disappointing 86-94 overtime loss to Rain or Shine last Tuesday. After taking control most of the game, the Jewels couldn't find their scoring touch in the extra period.

So suffers first loss in Dubai Chess tilt

FILIPINO FIDE MASTER WESLEY SO FALTERED IN the dying minutes and yielded to Armenian Super-Grandmaster Gabriel Saroissian Thursday night in the fifth round of the 8th Dubai Open at the Dubai Chess and Culture Club in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. The 12-year-old So suffered his first loss after 61 moves of a Nimzo Indian Defense but stayed in contention with 3.5 points and four more rounds to go. Sargissian now has 4.5 points and shares the lead with No. 2 GM Darmen Sadvakasov, GM Evgenij Miroshnichenko and GM Giorgi Kachelshvili.



SURPRISE VISITORS: 1-year-old Kurt Faizal Taldbubong and his mother with Pureloods' James Yap (right) and commissioner Noli Eala during the PBA stars' visit

to the Mindanao Medical Center in Misamis Oriental yesterday. Kurt suffers from an aliment forcom as posterior fossa tumor, a swelling of the brain. Story on A25. successes

Can Rodman save NBA tour?

AFTER GREAT EXpectations, American promoter Mario Whemire should brace for the worst in the NBA veterans tour headed by Bad Boy Dennis Rodman.

Beth Celis

IN HUDDLE

Mario thought the project would

ensure a rich box office, not to mention a successful marketing of the television coverage. He signed up a handful of former NBA stars giving each of them a downpayment of \$10,000. The balance of \$5,000 was to be paid later.

The other day, a friend who wanted to watch "The Bad Boy Tour" called the Araneta Coliseum to inquire about ticket prices. The lady at the other end of the line said patron tickets cost P5,000-plus each and general admission seats P300, binoculars not included.

Wow! Only about a week ago, he had called the same number for an initial inquiry. At that time, patron tickets were pegged at P15,000 apiece and the bleachers seats at P800 each.

For Mario, the project was now turning into a nightmare. As of last Wednesday, only a minute fraction of the tickets was sold, and the television sponsorship did not measure up even to half of what was expected.

Looking gravely harassed, Mario was now turning paranoid. He has started blaming everybody, except himself, for the impending fiasco. Filipino volunteers he had been dealing with reported that his group had been so difficult to deal

They were talking to so many people at the same time for overlapping jobs and deals and these led to confusion.

At the end of the day, the chaos took its toll. Or maybe the market, despite Rodman, just wasn't too interested in watching a group of has-beens play for so much money. You will probably know what I'm talking about on Monday, Labor Day, also the day Rodman and company will display their wares at the Big Dome.

The Manny Pacquiao vs Oscar Larios "Mano a Mano" presscon was scheduled 11 a.m. yesterday at Studio 9 of ABS-CBN in Quezon City

With the venue just a stone's throw away from my residence, I almost made it on time, give or take a few minutes. As in the past, I headed straight for the parking area mside the network to avail of valet service.

The security guard immediately approached me, explaning in a low voice that there had been a restructuring of valer rates. I asked him for the new rate, but he wouldn't tell me. I even lodded him that they must have upped the old P40 to P100 that's why he was too sny to calk.

The valet attendant finally broke the news: "We are now charging P150 for the first hour and P100 for every succeeding hour," he said.

Two hundred and fifty pesos for what I estimated to be a two-hour presscon. It would be the most I would ever pay for parking in my whole life. But when I thought of the scorching heat ourside, I decided to let go of my P250, which could be P350 if I was even just a second late in retrieving my car. I heard somebody say that only two cars had availed of valet service that day.

I craned my neck to take a peek inside the studio but a guard blocked my view

"No peeking uppil I p.m.," he said The invitation said 11 a.m. but showtime wasn't until 1 p.m. I thought of the valet meter acking.

Inspite of the enormous parking fee I would mean, I wanted to stay even for just a few annutes to see a portion of the show,

but I had a deadline to beat. To lessen my anxiety, Peter Musngi, old friend Diana Sayson and Ms Maioli Espinosa offered to give me a parking pass for

my valet service. The attendant only charged me P50 for valet fee. I missed the actual presscon, though, which they said was over by 2 p.m.

Championship Series will take place today at the Omra Aviation inside Clark Ecozone in Pampanga, Round 2 winners John Rizya Garaga Power (Outok 8), Christian Ramitez—Team Cabspeed (PRO class), TJ Pangilinan-Team Cabspeed (Sportsman and Antares Francisco (Hotstreet) are expected to join. The event is orgarded by Roadwise Motoring Foundation, For Inquiries, call or text Liza at 0916-3121050.

Korea's Kim pockets Asian 9-Ball crown

By Musong R. Castillo

SOUTH KOREA'S KIM GA-YOUNG CAPTURED THE ENERVA ASIAN LADIES 9-BALL Championship in runaway fashion with an 11-4 mastery of Taiwan's Kao Shu-pin for the \$10,000 top prize yesterday.

There were 14 entries from Chinese- match witnessed by a good-sized crowd Taipei, with three entering the semifinals, but the two-time defending world champion Kim averted an all-Taiwanese final by dumping Lin Yuan-chun, 9-5, before springing the final ambush

Iris Rañola, the last Filipina standing, took a 9-6 beating at the hands of Kao, who went all the way to the championship match of the \$30,000 event among players from nine Asian coun-

Rafiola fought hard but saw her efforts fall short as the Taiwanese advanced to the semifinals, thereby relegating the Filipino to an eighth-place finish.

After that victory over Rañola, Kao then supped compatriot Lin Pei-chun in the semifinals, 9-8, for a seat in the title

SPORTSWATCH

Chase for semis berths on

CARLO REMO OF KASON AND JOHN MAGANIS

of Fairview Smashers clash for the first semifinal

slot in the JVC Open Juniors Badminton Champi-

Monterubio taking on Gio Angsico of PACI4 Cock,

Precision; and Vincent Manuel colliding with Glo

today at SM Marilao. Three Centro Atletic

onships as action in the 10-under division re-

bets also open their semifinal bids with Renz

Alvin Morada clashing with Kenneth Joven of

Pinpin of Golden Shuttle, Poveda's Cassandra.

Lim eyes the first semifinal berth in the girls side

against Abbygale Evangelista of SAM Badminton.

Binangonan Balbina wins

BINANGONAN BALBINA OF ITO YNARES BEST-

ed its five opponents Tuesday night to emerge so-

to champion in the National Cockers Association's

final 5-cock derby for April at the newly renovated

Rollgon Mega Cockpit in Paraflaque City, Łucky

Rin Firefly Binangenan I of Ric de Guzman and Rene Medina missed the championship by half a

point when it tied with Jade Resort Juliane of

Manny and Arman Santos in their first encounter.

Firelly Binangonan, also of the De Guzman-Medi-

na tandem, Iggy Arroyo's Red Crask II and Ron-

In third spot with 4 points each were Lucky Rin

against Ingrid Obinial of Malolos Shuttlers, Arr-

other match pits Patrice Israel of Sportszone

at the fountain area of the Robinson's Galleria. Kao won \$5,000.

Playing for father Emilio who is batthing stage-four throat cancer back in Zamboanga, Rañola won \$1,500 (about P78,000) and steadily improved on her performance after finishing 32nd in the World Pool championship and 24th in the Japan Open last year.

It was the best finish by a local bet in the event, after ace Rubilen Amit fell Thursday afternoon to Japanese Alumi Kaptani, 7-9

The event was the biggest pool tournament for women held in the country and a total of eight Filipinos actually competed, with six, including RP No. 2 Mary Ann Basas, failing to make it past qualifying.

Ozamiz five makes it 4 straight

REIGNING CHAMPION OZAMIZ EXTENDED its winning streak to four by spanking Valencia, while Bacchus/Harbour Centre-Marala nipped Forward Tagnig to move on top Thursday in the Guerrero Brandy-NBC national basketball tourney in separate venues. Boyer Guerrero sparkled with 22 points as

Mayor Reynaldo Parojinog's Ozamiz cagers toppled Mayor Jose Galario Jr's Valencia Golden Harvest, 99-88, in Valencia City to improve its Southern division record to 4-0. Over at the CP Tinga gym in Taguig City,

the Manilans came from behind to subdue Mayor Freddie Tinga's Taguig squad, 71-68. and wrest the Northern division lead at 4-2.

Ozamiz remained the only unbeaten team. in the tourney sponsored by Panasonic, Sulpicio Lines, Nature's Spring Mineral Water,

STANDINGS Morth Division Forward Taguig Spring-P'haque Pangasinan Laguna-S. Rosa

STANDINGS South Division North Cotabato Bigan Pagadian

2 3 liodo Warriors

2 3 Quarters 23-22, 53-50, 75-73, 99-88

Lightings, Molten and Prime Channel (IZAMIZ 99 Supriero 22, Bartill 19, Basco 16, Yabut 2, Delire O, Caylan C, Alvarado D, Lapera C. VALENCIA #8-Cruz 14, Cabill 13, Berami 12, Cumminos 10. Brasa 9. Cellz 9. Nevelos 8. Clavel 4, Cosar 2, Tel-Inates 2, Adams 2, Arguero 0, Dumapilg 0.

Spring Cooking Oil, Regent Roods, Firefly

BACCHUSANARBOUR 71 - Membrere 15, Basnafe 12, Jay Cuevas 11, Pribdies 11, Sta. Cruz 9, Coyulang 7, Pile. 3, Masbang 2, Hardin 1, Retaga 0, Jun Cuevas 0.

DAGURG 68 - Gragasin 12, Legaspi 11, Patrimonio 5, Constantino 8, Castro 8, Reguera 7, Abad 7, Delay 5, Magsarabol 2, Lapinid C, Lustestica C. Quanture: 12-32, 33-47,52-57, 71-68

Dumandan topples Bayron via playoff

nie Puno's Wild Wing Sundance. BAGUIO-MARvin Dumandan railed from Makati 6-cock derby up three strokes down, THE SUMMER SALPUKAN 6-COCK DERBY. then bested Jay Bayron which has attracted more than 300 entries so far, on the durd playoff hole resumes today with 80 encounters at the Makati to snarch the crown in Colliseum, Sponsor is B-Meg Derby Aca. Yoday's the first leg of the Sam-3-cock second round eliminations start at 5 p.m. sung Amateur Golf Tour Promoters Lite Orillaza, Rudy Salud and William at the Baguio Country Co announced that cockers and breeders may still join on May 2, 4 and 6. The finals blast off on May Chib course yesterday. 11 and 13, "Everyone should pass the elimination Dumandan, round and no straight six cocks will be allowed on any day," Orillaza said. For inquiries, call Joan or

Stephanie at 896-3545 or 895-6475. Super Big Event today

THE BATTLE OF COCKFIGHT BIG SHOTS GETS going today in the Super Big Event 7-cock derby et the San Juan Colliseum. More than 80 first fights are lined up beginning at 5 p.m. The derby, with an entry tee of P550,000, is sponsored by Sagupaan Complexor 3000, Patrick Antonio, one of the derby organizers, will team up with bording idol Manny Pacquiao and battle the likes of Gov. Chavit Singson, Robert Uy and Dorl Du of Davac, Wakee Salud of Cebu, Behot Rocas of Tariac and Eimer and Dodong Codilla of Ormoc.

Tukaan at Roligon today

THE BLOCKBUSTER TUKAAN 5-COCK DERBY sizzlas at 2 p.m. today at the Rollgon Mega Cockpit with 125 matches on tap. Event at stake in the derby sponsored by Lakpue Drug Inc. and Thunderbird Enertone is P2 million for an entry fee of PB,800. A Toyota Innova awaits the fastest winner Host Rolly Ligar said two more days of 2-cock eliminations are scheduled on May 2 and 4. Qualifiers will dispute the championship on May 6. For Inquiries, call 851-2275, 833-1638 or 852-9812.



DUMANDAN

who matched par 61 to force the sudden death, birdied No. 8, the third playoff hole, to claim his second straight title after ruling the last mouth.

Dumandan flashed his resiliency as he crawled from five shots down after a 64 in the first round by shooting a 60 and two 61s for a 246.



DHL-WWW Express tournament

overnight leader by three shots, struggled to a 64 (246).

Fernando Aurizo shot 62 while Michael

Bibar fired a 60 to share third at 248, while Dave Hernandez (62) and Mark Fernando (60) finished in joint with 251s. Paul Echavez (67), Joseph Labajo (66) and Jun Bernis

(66) tied for seventh with 254s. Tootsie de Jesus carded a 71-139, then nipped Rev Kang (65-139) in a playoff to top Class A. Ric Madayag

and Cris Palanca ried for third. Oscar Arenas shot a 74 for a 144 as he posted a three-shot win over Raul Zamora (74-147) in Class B.

Bad Boy & Co. rip San Mig All-Stars

By Calvin Cordova, Cebu Daily News

MANDAUE CTIY--THE STARS OF YEARS PAST needed a lot of help from the future as the NBA Legends ripped apart the San Miguel Corp. All-Stars, 124-94, Thursday at the Mandaue City Cultural and Sports Complex.

in what was supposed to be a showdown between old-timers, the American selection leaned on the young guns of the NBA's developmental league (NBDL) after falling behind early to the Allan Cardic-led SMC all-stars, 10-20.

The crowd got what they wanted, though, from 6-foot-8 rebounding demon Dennis Rodman, who hauled down 18 boards.

MBA LEGENDS 124-Famotimi 33, Alien 25, Wilkerson 18, Raid 13, English 11, Boddicker 10, Rodman 5, Dawldns 5, Murphy 4.

SINC ALL-STARS 94 - Agustin 17, Caldic 17, Mizon 14, Espinosa 7, Martin 8, Bolado 6, Pachaco 8, Magtuits 5. Jose 4, Sta. Marta 4, Jarendo 3, Contaro 2, Loyzaga 2 Quarters: 30-28, 67-51, 95-74, 124-94

Clark drag race today ANOTHER ROUND OF QUARTERMILE DRAG RACE

Super fight offered free; Pacquiao training in US

14, and train for two weeks in Baguio City. "When we made this fight we received angry phone calls from three sources-HBO, which lost the chance to ABS, and Wynn Hotel and MGM Grand, which lost

the opportunity to Manila," said Khan. At the same press conference, Larics maintained that he's extremely confident he could beat Pacquiao, considered by experts as the world's most exciting fighter today.

throw machine-gun punches," armounced Larios. "My record speaks for itself. I'm gonna do it and that's it. And that's wiry I will beat him."

Larios' agent, Rafael Mendoza, shared the same observation, saying that his ward is better than both Enk Morales and Marco Antonio Barrera.

Thelieve Larios is better than Morales and Barrera, that's why he can bear Pacquiao," mid Mendoza, "I believe he has the "I warma be in superb condition and stamina and guts to face Pacquiao. Those

are the things that Morales and Barrera didn't have." After criticisms about prohibitive ticket

prices, Pacquiao announced yesterday that

all general admission tickets for the July 2 fight at the Araneta Collseum will be given Pacquiao said he has conferred with ABS-CRN top honcho, Mr. Gabby Lopez,

and it was agreed that general admission tickets, worth P2.5 million, will be given

Pacquiao did not explain the mechanics on how to avail of the free tickets. He said ABS-CBN will take care of the sensitive

Pressed on his physical conditioning, Pacquiao vowed to be in peak form for Larios, adding he's now about 140 lbs, 10 lbs

over the contract weight of the bout. Pacquian said shedding excess poundage was the least of his problems as all his time and energy will be focused on training to be at his best.

THE INDIANA Pacers' trolks of Jermaine O'Neal (left), Anthony Johnson (second from right) and Scot Pollard make life diffi-cult for New Jersey center Nenad Krstic, who gets foiled on his way to the hoop. O'Neal, earlier fined for comments against officiating, put in a dominant performance as the Pacers took a 2-1 series lead in the playoffs.

109-90, to trim the Heat's series lead to 2-1, while Ben Gordon hit for 24 to prevent the home while the Deriver Nuggets stopped the Los Angeteam from falling into a 3-0 hole. les Cloppers, 94-87, to also get to 2-1.

Avoiding the foul trouble that stifled him through much of the opening two games of the series, O'Neal broke loose to equal a playoffs career-lugh 37 points, while pulling down 15 rebounds and blocking four shots.

In Games One and Two, O'Neal scored 15 and 12 points respectively and played a total of 32 minutes combined.

Prustrated by the close attention he was receiving, O'Neal voiced his unhappiness in the of ficieung earlier on Thursday and was immediately fined \$15,000 by the league.

A few hours later, an inspired O'Neal shrugged off the unwanted dent to his bank balance by making his first six shots. Despute 19 points from O'Neal, the Pacers en-

tered halftime trailing, 55-51, but continued to assert themselves in the second half and slowly took centrol, 78-70, going into the final quarter.

In Chicago, the Bulls used a smothering defense to hold Shaquille O'Neal to just eight points am live; 7 p.m. replay)

The Buils will have a chance to even the series when they host Game Four on Sunday.

"We did what we had to do," Bulls coach Scott Skiles said. "We had to win this game. We played better, but they didn't play like they played in Miarms. We know the odds, 95 percent of the time the team that is up 2-0 wins the series."

After averaging over 24 points in the opening two games of the series, O'Neal endured one of the most dismal playoff performances of his career, butting just one basket through the first three quarters.

in Denver, Carmeio Anthony scored a gamehigh 24 points as the Nuggets beat the Los Angeles Clippers to earn a shot at leveling their best-of-seven series when they host Game Four on Saturday.

The Nuggets played the game without Kenyon Martin, who was suspended for conduct demmental to the team, but the return home provided Denver with enough lift for the win. Reuters

188A on SOLAR SPORTS—Cleveland vs Washington (8

Protest mars Nadal win

BARCELONA—TOP SEED RAFAEL NADAL qualifier Ivan Navarro Pastor shrugged off an interruption from a female spectator, who handcuffed herself to the net post, to reach the quarterfinals of the Barcelona Open on Thursday.

107-95

In other games, the

While third seed Guillermo Coria doublefaulted his way out of the tournament and 2002 French Open champion Albert Costa bowed out of professional tennis, Nadal extended his winning streak on clay to 44 matches with a 6-4, 6-2 win over Spanish

Nadal was more bothered by the intruder than his opponent.

The young girl, wearing a white mask and a T-shirt campaigning for Catalan independence, ran on to the court and handcuffed herself to the net post when Nadal was leading, 6-4, 4-0.

After a brief delay, the girl was led away and Nadal eased to victory and a quarterfinal against Finn Jarkko Nieminen.



With ailing mom in tow, a young girl gets her shot

REUNION, FLORIDA -- KELLY JO DOWD didn't know whether to laugh or cry, so she did a little of both. With one swing of her 13-year-old daughter's driver, a mother's dream came true.

Dakoda Dowd opened play on Thursday with a birthe in the US LPGA's Ginn Open, doing so while her terminally ill mother looked on, surrounded by friends and fami-.y. Wearing a pink shirt and black skirt, the teen teed off and her first ball sailed down the left-center of the fairway. She finished the day with a 2-over 74.



That was nine shots off the lead held by Christie Kert at 65, a shot better than Fil-Am Dorothy Delasin, who fired a 75, and three shots d of the Philip pines' Jennifer Rosales, who opened yith a 77

Kelly Jo Dowd is fighting cancer for the second time in

four years. She was given a clean bill of health after doctors beheved she bear breast cancer, but she learned last year that she has terminal bone and liver cancer-and, concervably, only months to live.

"This is one of the best weeks of my life," Kelly Jo said on Thursday.

When Ginn officials learned Kelly Jo's wish was to see her daughter, who has won dozens of amateur tournaments, play against the LPGA's best, they made it possible with an exemption into the field.

Dakoda received a sponsor's exemption to play in the event near Orlando. She started on the 532-yard, par-5 10th hole.

She chewed on her right thumbnail for a few manutes before teeing off, then hugged her mother and leaned her head back in rehef that the wait was, at long last, over

"I'm excited," Dakoda said after walking off the practice green and signing a few autographs. "This has all been great."

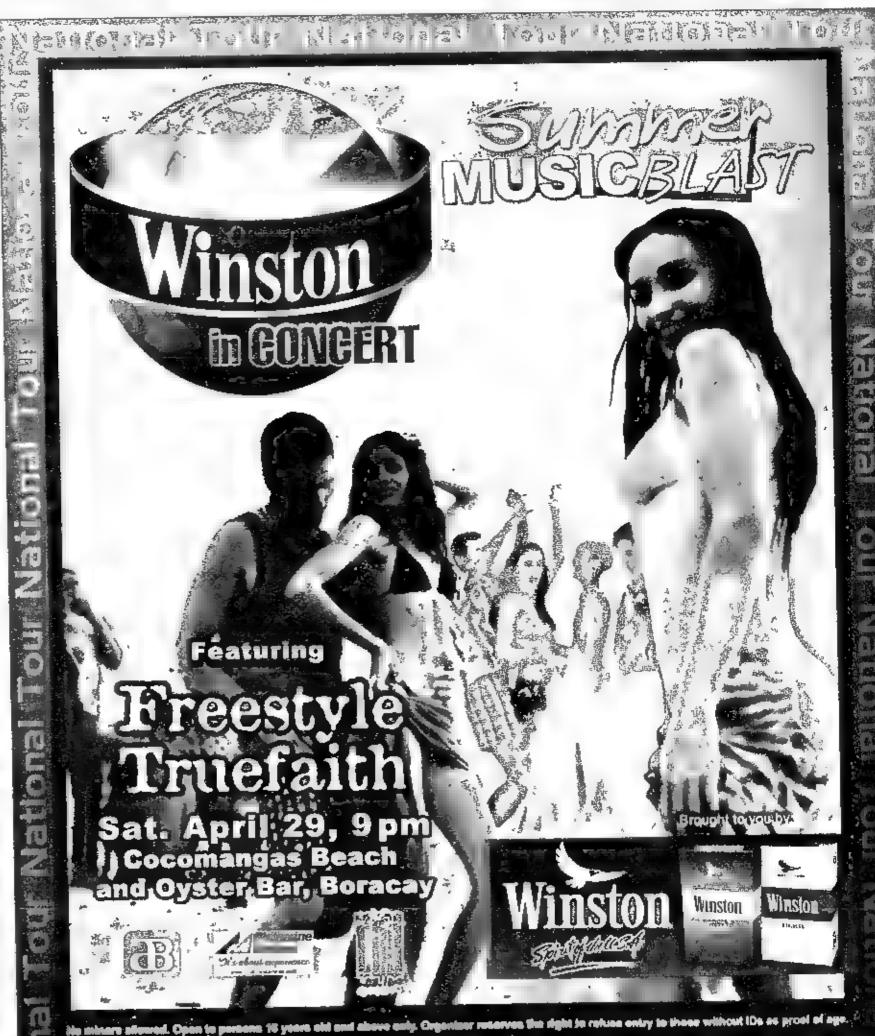
Even with the likes of Annika Sorenstam, Lorena Ochoa, Natalie Gulbis, Paula Creamer and Morgan Pressel-some of the game's most popular players—in the field, some simply came to see Dowd.

"I don't know how she does it," Creamer said. "That's pretty remarkable."

Presset understands that, on a number of levels. Not only does she know what it's like to be the kic. among golf grown ups but Pressel lost her mother to breast cancer in September 2003.

Spring pockets No. 6

UP-Mighty Riter Kings, 77-66, and kept its unbeaten record in the 2006 PICAA Open basketball tournament Thursday night at the EAC gym in Manila, it was the sixth straight win of national shooter Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla's Cooking Oil Masters, Led by veterans Mado Reyes and Marvin Yambao Spring used a 28-12 run between the second and third quarters to pull away for good, 44-30. Homer's Cager shocked King's Bakeshop, 78-77, in the other game of the tourney supported by Manifa Vice Mayor Danny Lacuna, Tomish Café (Dapitan) and Chice Light-Ings. Marion Yambao, Buboy Rodriguez and Noel Salazar combined for 43 points for Homer's, King's Steve Marucot had a chance to send the game into overlime when he was fouled white taking a 3-point shot. But he multed one of his three tries to allow Homer's to lever to 3-3,



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un tau presents old style antonese cuisin

THE TIN HALL MASTER CHEFS OF MANdarin Oriental, Manda will delight Chinese food lovers and goormands with the enticing cuisine of Old Style Cantonese on May 1 to 14.

Experience the fresh, natural flavours of Old Style Cantonese cooking which is a highlight of this Chinese regional cuisane, and is regarded as the best-known style of Chinese enoking worldwide. Ingredients purchased and prepared on the same day will be cooked just before serving and will be presented in a sumptuous a la carte menu, which will be available darly for lunch and dinner.

Cantonese cuising originates from the region around Canton (Guangzhon) in southern China's Guangdong province and is well liked for employing cooking methods that enhance the ingredients' natural flavours. The freshest of ingredients are usually combined with the intense flavour of preserved, aged and dried ingredients for contrast in taste and

texture. The use of very mild and simple spaces are used to enhance taste. Hot spices like chili are rarely used. Dishes are most often considered bland, as compared to the usually thicker, richer, and darker sauces of other Chinese cuisine.

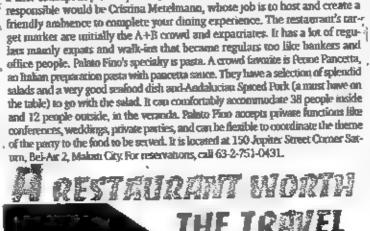
Some of the Cantonese dishes that will exalt food lovers include: Braised abalone with sea cucumber, duck feet and green vegetables; Oven baked eel fillet with honey sauce; Sur-fried Mian Xian with slipper lobster; Charcoal-roasted honey pork coin with sesame seed; Braised bird's nest topped with hamboo pith stuffed with shring mousse; Braised fish lips, dned scallops and mushroom soup topped with quail egg; Impenal chicken; Baked pork spareribs with fermented bean curd; Assorted mushrooms wrapped in cabbage with dried scallop sauce; and, Double boiled sweetened papaya with white

fungus and red date soup.

in addition, five new enticing set menus consisting of a manimum of six courses for a minimum of two to ten persons - Jasmine, Lotus, Emperor, Phoenix, and Mandarin, offer discerning palates an alternative option to the buffet lunch and dinner, which are available daily and range from P938+++ to PI,668+++ per person. For enquiries and reservations, call Tin

Hau at 750 8888 extension 2422/2424.

PALATO FINO WHICH TRANSLATES TO FINE PALATE, OPENED FOUR and half mouths ago. Behind the restaurant are two responsible passionate people: for the BOH (back of the house), the restaurant has a German chef who lived in Pasadena California for 10 years and was actually doing a hire- ! a-chef concept in private parties; for the FOH (front of the house), the one responsible would be Cristina Metelmann, whose job is to host and create a





The longest buffet in Davao City

nouncing names of some interna-Murbreig? Some would say that it's such a long and complicated name simply just for a German cheese tart. Bauerruch, Khao Niaow Ma Muang, Saint-Honore Torte, etc... Some cuisines even sound as foreign to your palates as their names are to you. Experience the easy way of

learning and loving these names only at the longest buffet in Davao City: Acquaint ? your stomach with the different flavors of the world as The Marco Polo, Davao introduces Around the World at Café Mar co." Excite your ap-

EVER HAD DIFFICULTIES PRO- and most delectable dishes and succulent desserts from Europe, tional cuisine? Kasekuchen Mit Asia, the Middle East, and other continents all in one sitting Learning and pronouncing foreign cuisine will never be as difficult as before once you get to taste them.

For inquiries and reservations, please contact (082) 221-0888 local 7222 or 7223 Promo runs from April 12 to May 30.



afternoon delight

WATERFRONT CEBU CITY HOTEL & CASINO (WCCHC) invites you to include in the season's hottest refresher: the all-Pilipino, all-time favorite halo-halo. This indulgence is now available in an mimitable Halo-Halo Station propoed up at the Lobby Lounge of Waterfront Cebu City Hotel & Casino for the whole summer month of April. For only P210, one gets to concort and personalize his very own glass of halo-halo from a spread of colorful ingredients. Yes, including the velvety dollop that finishes it off; ice cream.

Though one is free to throw in a myriad of delicious magredients in a tall halo-halo glass, here are the more popular and basic halo-halo elements: Shredded melon, macapuno, scooped star apple and cubed mango make the halo-halo a more ex-

otic fare due to their seasonal availability; Beans such as black monggo and sweet garbanzos are added to the mix, squeezing in with broiled root crops such as diced or crushed camote and/or gabi; Colored gelatin (in bright green, red and yellow) made from agar-agar is renumiscent of colorful fiestas; to further sweeten the halo-halo, kaong and sago in syrup are used; saha bananas and jackfruit (langka) that are mollified in syrup can be used as flavor enhancers. Traditionally, a handful of see encombs the ingredients, making halohalo-eating a somewhat challenging yet fulfilling endeavor! About an inch of evaporated milk settles into your long glass. To crown the almostready concoction, roasted pumpig and ube, leche flan or corn is placed atop the crushed ice. Nowa-

days, a scoop of ube ice cream gives us a more sumptuous alternative. With all these ingredients in place, the halo-halo is complete, inviting, ready to be feasted on.

Grace your taste buds this summer, indulge in the perfect afternoon dought; create your own halo-halo dream at the Lobby Lounge of Waterfront Cebu City Hotel & Casmo. Available for the whole month of April, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Waterfront Cebu City Hotel & Casino is located at Salinas Drive, Lahug Cebu Ciry, Philippines. For inquiries and reservations, contact (032) 232-6888; Conventions: Local 8044; Food and Beverage: 8200; 8201; Front Office: 8133. Manila Sales and Reservations Office at (02) 687-0888. Visit the website at www.waterfronthotels.net.



By Rito P. Asilo

"The Sentinel"

D: Clark Johnson S: Michael Douglas, Kiefer Sutherland, Kim Basinger

SECRET SERVICE AGENT Pete Garrison (Michael Douglas) is in a tight fix. When he uncovers an assassination plot on the life of L.S. President Ballentine (David Rasche), he suddenly finds himself shoved

into the center of an intricate web of blackmail, deception and murder. He is forced to run for his life when he is framed for the murder of Secret Service agent, Charlie Merriweather (played by director Clark Johnson).

Meanwhile, Pete's bitter enemy, agent David Breckenridge (Kiefer Sutherland), is hot on his tail. They were best friends until David blamed the former for the breakup of his marriage. Now, Pete has to prove his innocence before it's too late. His only alibir First Lady Sara Ballentine (Kim Basinger), with whom he's having an affair.

Director Johnson keeps his film's narrative flow swift and eventful, and spices up the scenic action and the sto-

ry's whodunit tone with a first-rate cast: Sutherland hits his thespic stride despite a role that is not as well-threshed-out as Douglas' For her part, Basinger manages to make the unfaithful wife sympathetic, while the hardworking Eva Longoria is unscast as a sexy-but-smart rookie investigator

EXCITING shootout in "The Sentinel."

While not entirely original in story and narrative scope, the film nevertheless as engaging as they are predictable.

"The Nun" (La Monja) D: Luis De La Madrid

S: Anita Briem, Manu Fullola, Cristina Piaget

Luis De La Madrid cooks up a different kind of ghoul in a horror film that fails to its promising realize premise. When stern, verbally abusive Sr. Ursula (Cristina Piaget) reminds her six teenage wards at a special boarding school for spoiled girls, "Sacrifice brings

us closer to God," she has more than just sacrifice in Eighteen years after the min's mysterious death, her shape-shifting, water-drenched spirit returns to seek

vengeance and retribution-and the girls' dark secrets Unfortunately, this film's attractive actors and interesting premise don't a good scary movie make.



S: Camilla Belle, Tommy Flanagan, Lance Henriksen

This "Stranger," a thrill-free reworking of the 1979 original, is a clunker. As "atonement" for incurring 800 minutes more than her cell phone's credit ceiling, high school student Jill Johnson (Camilla Belle) has to pay the bill by babysitting for a rich couple, who lives in a secluded house by the lake.

What could be scarier—or more claustrophobic—than gening trapped in a huge house during a windy and stormy night? Jill soon finds out-when a stranger (Tommy Flanagan, but voiced by Lance Henriksen) starts calling her. She begins to freak out when she realizes that the strange, threatening calls come from inside the house! Who knew babysitting could be so hazardous to a teenage delivers on thrills that are girl's health—and lungs?



PIAGET in "The Nun."

Promising young talents impress viewers

By Nestor U. Torre

SOME PEOPLE KEEP COMplaining that we don't have many good actors left. Not true, we've seen many exciting new talents enter the

field this year. Some months ago, for instance, six child actors impressed audiences in Bing Pimentel's Martial Law musical, "Pag-ibig sa Bayan," at Meralco Theater. The talented kids performed with experienced stars like Marco Sison, but they managed to hold their own.

The young performers played the children of Senator Nene Pimentel and and his wife Bing. The roles were difficult to essay because they had to react to daunting challenges and stresses, especially when Pimentel was incarcerated four times during the Martial Law period.

Thus, the Pimentel children had to grow up in dire straits as the family's finances were severely

Characters

young, the six child actors understood what their characters were going through, and came up with

GELE, Sensitive.

Despite their being very

sensitive and felt portrayals. They served notice that del Mundo's digital feature, they were in the performing arts to stay:

Elijah Castillo is still an 11 years old, but she has adolescent, but he has already chalked up performances in other stage musicals like "Himala" and "Birhen ng Caysasay." A sensitive actor, his biggest assignment to date has

Michelle Marie R. Vito PROMISING/ A2-4

VITO. Lovely.

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been the title role in Doy

Roychelle Torre is only

one of the best new singing

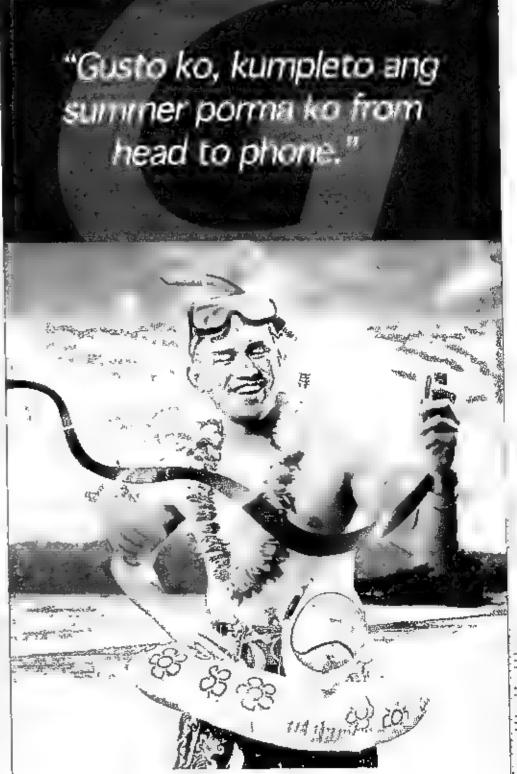
voices around, and a great

future is predicted for her

in the field of music and

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cials next month: On May 7 at 9 p.m., "Back to You discover that her and Me" stars Lisa mother (Rue Mc-

movies about self- forced to take stock to a bed-and-breakdiscovery, family and of her life when an elforgiveness are the derly cancer patient urges her

> her 20th high school reunion.

She is shocked to Hartman as a career- Clanahan)

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Showing on May 3, 2006

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MTRCB R-18 12 20, 2-45,10-00

fast, and that she still loves her childhood sweetheart (Dale to attend Midkiff), now a widower and father of an invalid six-year-old

> These discoveries prompt her to confront her past and

Slungri-ka Pleza



SMITH, Plays a judge In "Ordinary Miracles."

amends, and discover her family's troubling secret.

And, on May 14 at 9 p.m., "Ordinary Miracles" tells a tender, emotionally rich story of personal growth, family betrayal and renewal.

Jaclyn Smith plays a judge who, despite her personal crises, accepts temporary custody of a troubled teenager (Lyndsy Fonseca), Secrets of the teen's difficult past are revealed, and the two women eventually bond as they both find a new

sense of identity and worth.

Big Preview: 'Mission: Impossible III'

Catch a behindthe-scenes glumpse of the year's most anticipated blockbuster, sion Impossible III," starring Tom Cruise, at 8 p.m. on April 30 on HBO, and get a chance to win an all-expenses-pard trip for two to attend the film's gala premiere in Tokyo. Log on to http://www.hboa-sia.com/mi3

Putomayo

At 4 p.m. today at Shangri-La Plaza's Grand Atrium, Gymboree provides sample play classes for lattle lads using custom-made materials from Putomayo's award winning children's line. At 5 p.m., bossa nova tunes abound from MP

MOTHER'S, A3



DESCRIPTION PROPERTY







Success story

GUILLERMO BAUtista and Agnes delos Santos were 18 and 16 years old, respectively, when they fell in love in their hometown of Amadeo, Cavite.

SATURDAY,

Agnes was a 2nd year high school student when they got married. After her third son was born, she went back to school, and got a BS Education in Home Economics degree.

Meanwhile Guillerwegian ship as an engine boy After four years at sea, he put up Dart Restaurant in Paco while operating a jeepney, Mrs. Bautista taught Home Economics.

Baker

They decided to migrate to the USA. Guillermo found a job as a baker and, for Hampton, New York. relocated, he sold the Call bakery to Guillermo. By 1988, Juno's Hampton Bakery had an' impressive showroom, retailing French

and German pastries. Now, their sons well-paying jobs, Riel is a physical at 1 p.; therapist at South studio



Mandy Navasero Navasero

Hampton, Jason, 41, is a nurse at Brook Haven Hospital, and mo worked on a Nor- Michael, 36, manages the bakery.

Most of the time, Guillermo and Agnes Salaban, are in Amadeo, Cavite, in their farm planted to coffee, and live in Bgy. Habay, Bacoor everytime they are on vacation in the Philippines.

Mandy Navasero's Batanes Photo Safari II is set for May 21 to seven years, assisted a 24 Batanes is the French baker in South perfect destination photographers When the Frenchman and nature lovers! 8991767, 8963208 or 0916-7060130, or email mandynavasero@ya hoo.com

> Basic Photography features Prof. Eric Torres as lecturer on Art Appreciation at 1 p.m. today at my

Mother's

From page A2-2

Strings and reggae group Peacepipe. Call 372-9845

'Gameolan'

At 1:30 p.m. on April 30 on Studio "Gamepian" spotlights its new "Cheap segment, Thrills," which gives tips on cool places and activities you can enjoy for not more than P500 New hosts are Paolo Soler and Wowie Me.oto.

'The Park'

On Star Chinese Movies at 12 45 p.m. today, "The Park," directed by Andrew Lau, is about seven friends who explore the mystery of an abandoned Bangkok park.

Johnson Family Vacation'

On Star Movies at 9 p.m. on April 30, the film on view is Johnson Family Va-*cation," a breezy comedy about a family of oddballs.

'Makuha Ka sa Tikim'

At 11 a.m. today on Channel 2, "Lutong Sikat, Lutong Divang-Diva"

divas whipping up celebrities' favorite meals using their secret weapon, Knorr Eugene Domingo, Eula Vaides and Cherry Pie Picache host "MKST."

Winston Summer **Music Blast**

The Winston Summer Music Blast tour hits Cocomangas-Boracay tonight, with performances by Freestyle and True Faith.

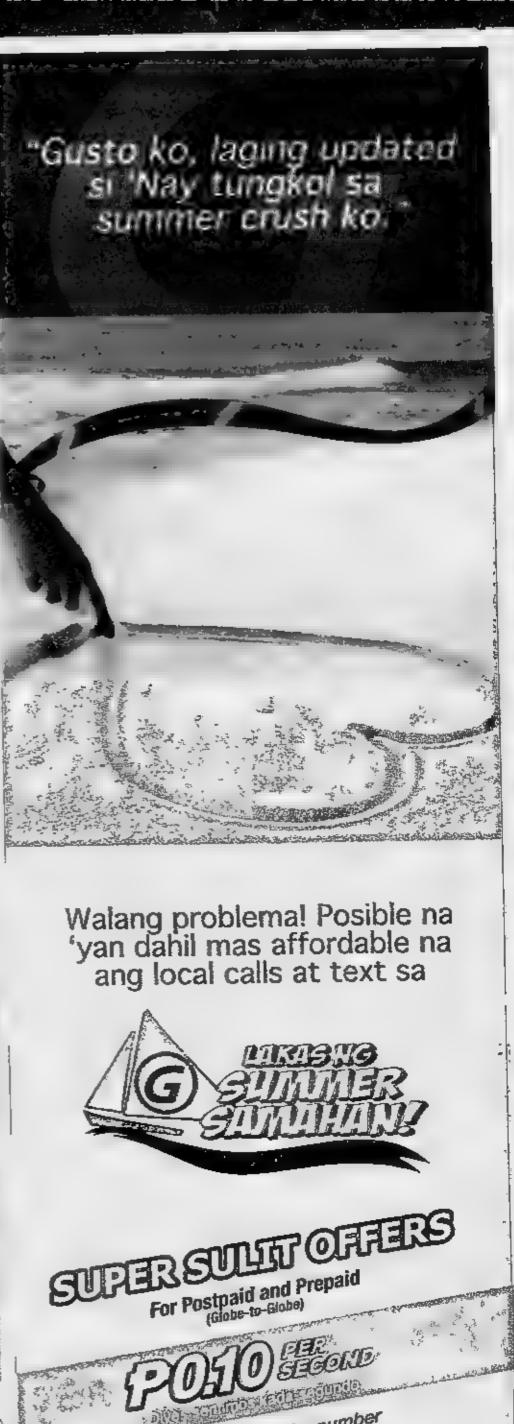
Movies on TV

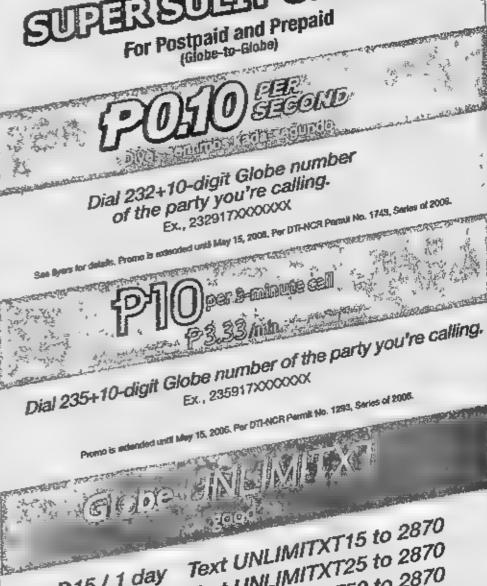
On HBO, May 1 at 5.15 p.m., "Radio." 10:40 p.m., "Shrek 2." May 2 at 10 p.m., Splen-"American dor." May 3 at 9 p.m., "The Witches of Eastwick," May 4 at 7:30 a.m., "A Soldier's Story." May 5 at 12:45 p.m., True

Believer." On Cinemax, May 1 at 6:30 a.m., "The Outlaw Josey Wales." May 2 at 4:40 p.m., "Barefoot in the Park." 8 p.m., "Bean." May 3 at 8 a.m., "Mr. Deeds Goes to Town." 11 45 a.m. "Pleasantville." May 4 at 1 15 p.m., "The Guns of Navarone." May 5 at 6:30 a.m. "Indiscreet." 3:20 a.m., "High Noon."

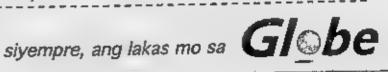








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SATURDAYSpecial

Promising young talents...

From page A2-1

commercials and is also a young ramp model. With her combination of looks and talent, she's bound to make it as a young star.

Natural approach

so very promising. Her forte is sensitivity in performance, a "Little Big Star" kiddle natural approach to acting singing tilt. She's also a feathat quickly elicits the audience's empathy.

bert John Reyes is a precocious charmer who's done

studies, and his natural intelhgence infuses his perforhas been featured in many mances with poise and in-

Formidable

Also seven years old, versatile Mica Torre is a singer-actor who's starred in musicals like Angelica Jimenez-Gele is alvery promising. Her forte is was a finalist in Channel 2's tured player in ABS-CBN's new soap, "Bituing Walang new soap, "Bituing Walang new soap, "Bituing Walang Ningning," and plays an important role in the 2006 Cinemalaya entry, "Saan Nagtata-



REYES. Charmer.

ents for future productions, call Andy at 780-9210 or 0919-

Make mine Ilocos empanada

PROVINCIAL cialties score big when the assembly of this brought to the strange snack. Metropolis, Aling Lucinasal, and Vigan's longganisa are also a hit here. Now, there's Amianan, or empana-

Specialty

I first came across this provincial specialty in Lacag and Batac, Ilocos Norte. It was so

SPE interesting to watch

The cook rolls out a ing's sisig of Pampanga mass of orange dough is a staple in most then stuffs it with a Pinoy restaurants, le- mixture of cooked chon monok, Bacolod's mongo and green papaya, and toasted and shredded Lacag or Batac longganisang hubad. liocos Norte's Tacos ti All this is topped with a raw egg, sealed on each side using a platito, then deep-fried to a

While it's still hot, bite into iti Pour some spicy Taco Ilocano opened at sandydasa@shaw.ca

WORD OF MOUTH_

Ilocos Norte suka loaded with an assortment of spices on it—and hum

away! A new stall called

Marketi Marketi at the Port just a few months back. The maker is a direct import from the province of Ilocos

Show

Watching the assembly is a show in itself. If you want a unique, inexpensive yet delicious discovery, check this place out.

Taco Ilocano is open all day, 7 days a week. Happy eating!

Send comments to

The butterfly within

break free from material entanglements teacher Jagad Guru like anxieties, fear, Siddhaswarupananloneliness, depres-

HOW DOES ONE sion, pain and suffer- gave this talk on the ings? Our spiritual da Paramahamsa, body develops in a

process and we are sharing it with you:

As the butterfly

POND



LOTUS

and S. Bismark

> cocoon, the cover outside becomes that you can see through it. When the butterfly is ready to fly, the covering is as thin as rice paper, so it is easy to break. Material entangle-ment is like this cocoon which is very reputation, thick and wide in the beginning. It seems formidable strong, like a solid

Purification

But if a person is ing the names of the Supreme Being, the cocoon gets thinner The effect is called purification. Elements which encase the living entity (ignorance, illusion ered overwhelming, yours.

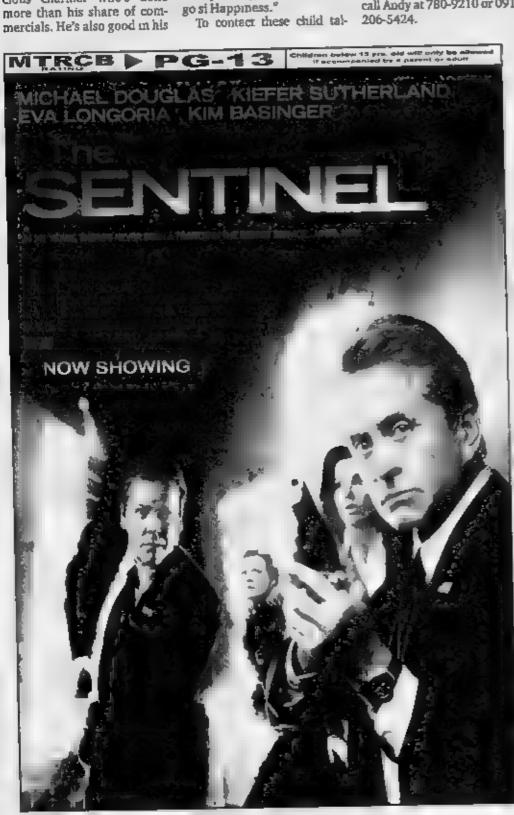
stronger and bigger than you begin to shrink.

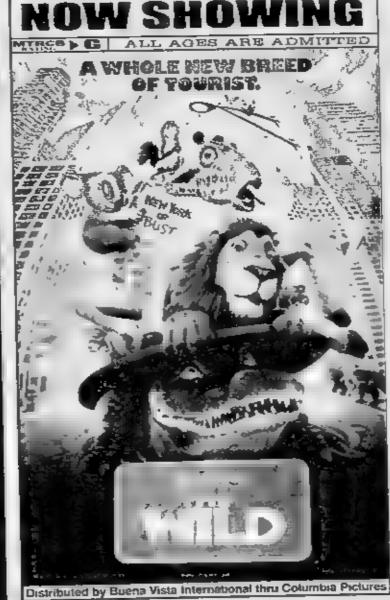
Initially, when a person is encased, it is dark inside. But as the casing gets thin-ner, the light of the spiritual world comes to you. You begin to reshze that the material world is temporary and passing. You understand that the spuritual world is the real world, and that this material world is thinner, to the point cracking just like Japanese nce paper breaks away.

Insignificant

All of the things you think are important and formidable, such as possessions, even death, now seem insignificant. butterfly's The wings push out of the cocoon just as material nature, is pushed aside as insignificant by the rehearing and chant- alized soul. That is the power of the Names of the Supreme Being which thin out the wall that separates us from the spiritual world

So, accept the and material desire) Names of God into begin to dry up. your life, and success Things you consid- and freedom will be









Eddie Romero shouts 'Action!' again at 81

By Rica Arevalo

TATIONAL ARTIST EDDIE Romero, 81, is at it again, directing his first digital film, "Faces of Love" (formerly "Nasaan ang Pag-ibig?"). I visited his set at Tierra Pura, Commonwealth Q C. on the production's first shooting day last April 24. Romero, well-dressed in long sleeves and formal pants, was a standout. He was wearing a hat and holding a director's viewfinder.

One can see his joy as he directs his actors, Christopher de Leon, Angel Aquino, Junana Pa ermo, Chanda Romero and Chinggoy Alonzo. Other members of the cast are Alfred Vargas and Ricky Davao

Collaboration

It is the 30th anniversary of the team-up of De Leon and Romero. Their collaboration started in 1976 during "Gamito Kami Noon, Paano Kami Ngayon?" followed by "Aguila" (1979) and "Kamakalawa" (1981) While the crew sets up the lights, De Leon reminisces about his eating experiences with Romero. He playfully says, "Direk, nami-miss ko na yung man natin kasama ang buong grupo."

On the set, Romero is playful and always smiling. While taking a rest, his assistant direc-

smile for a picture and in jest asks for the director's next 100 shots per sequence. Romero blurts out, "Don't bother me, I'm thinking." And everyone cracks up.

Cinematographer Jun Aves says, "There is no tension on the set, I am amazed that, at his age, he is still sharp, meticulous, and notices all the details."

Hmmm...

or Color?

BALDH

" Wile Keep You in Style"

When Romero shouts, Ac-

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tor, Paolo Villaluna, teases him to tron!" one can feel his grace and authority. He reads the script to the actors, sometimes asking for their comments.

In one scene, Romero's humor is at work: De Leon, who plays Arcadio, tells his niece Skip, played by Juliana Palermo, "Baliw lang ang magpapakasal sa 'yu." And she answers, "O, bigay mo sa kanya number ko," and playfully EDDIE/A3-J

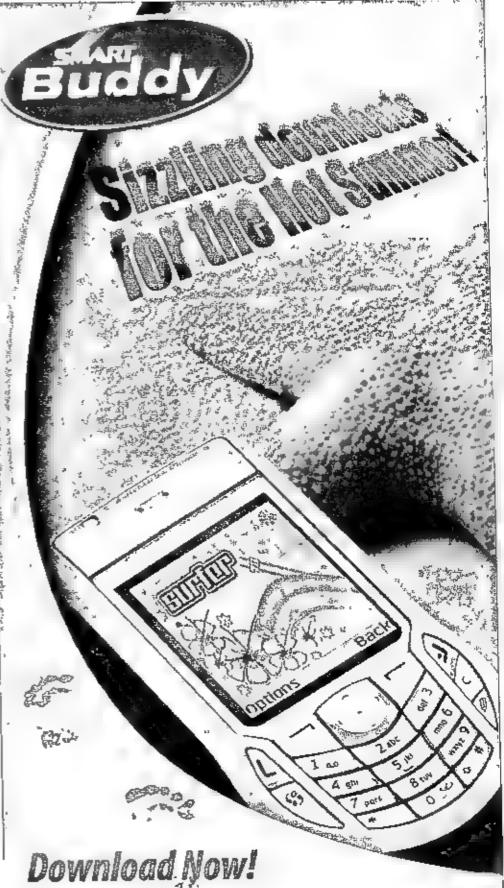
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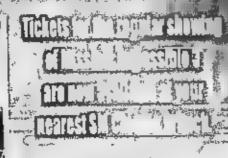




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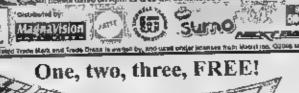
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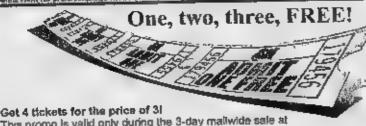
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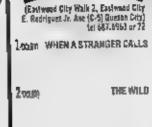
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SEAGAL, Out of shape.

'Submerged' has stodgy action scenes

By Noelani Torre

TEN MINUTES INTO the new Steven Seagal starrer "Submerged," you'll find yourself squarming in your seat, wishing you were somepiace else.

Granted, nobody expects Academy Award fare from the pony-tailed action star, or even high-class action, but at least, his earlier movies made an attempt to be coherent and entertaming. His latest pothoiler is a mess. Let's begin with the plot.

Stronghold

There's this evil doctor, Nazi-type who's playing around with mind-control in Oruguay This has resulted in the murder of the US ambassador by a mind-controlled member of her own staff. The team sent to storm the doc's stronghold fails to do so since-surprise, surprise one of them is asso mind-controlled

Enter our hero, Chris Cody (Seagal), a commando former imprisoned for some vague crime, and his band of merry men. He and his men have to get the job done, and if they do so, then, they're free to go.

aforemennoned stronghold is stormed by half a dozen people who hardly get hit, and then a submanne turns up from out or nowhere.

This isn't even a B movie. Consider if you will the mindcontrol premise that has already been overused (i.e. "The Manchurian Candidate") and, in this case, is not even precorrectly. sented Here, all it takes to control the complex brain of an individual is to have the person watch a videol

Overwrought

That would have been forgivable if the action scenes were any good, but unfortunately, they aren't They're stodgy and unexciting, and director Anthony Hickox makes it worse by attempting to simulate thrill vio choppy shots and an overwrought soundtrack. Then, there's Sea-

gal himself. We're used to his one-expression-ali-the-time kind of acting. So, the fact that he doesn't even blink when the sub is sinking comes as no surprise.

Overweight

Unfortunately, he no longer has the leanand-mean look required to carry off that kind of sangfroid. He's overweight and out of shape. He humbers and "humbering" is not a word you want to apply to an action hero.

The movie's only good point is Vinnie Jones ("Lock, Stock, and Two Smoking Barrels"), who has more presence than all of the other acrors combined. Not surprisingly, he doesn't share the screen that often with the topbilled star, lest he outshine his ponymiled-ness.

SATURDAYSpecial

'Pepot Artista,' Pinoy indies grace Singapore filmfest;

By Rito P. Asilo

INGAPORE—THE booming Pinoy indie film movement has caught the attention of the organizers of the 19th Singapore Film Festival, which closes today. Included in Silver see film. filmfest's Screen awards are Doy del Mundo's "Pepot gapore-Hong Kong), Nidal Al-Dib's "Under the Ceiling" (Syria),

Artista" (best picture win-ner of the First Cinemalaya the Eyes" (Lebanon), Riri Naza's ner of the First Cinemalaya filmfest), Raya Martin's award winning

documentary, Short Film About the Night. Dawn (India). Indio Nacional," and John Torres' "Todo Todo Teros."

Exciting lineup

The three Filipino films join the exciting the roster of films hneup that includes competing for the DELMUNDO. Must Mani Haghigi's "Men at Men a Work" (Iran), Kelvin Tong's "Love Story" (Sin-

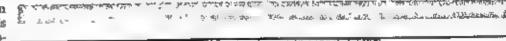
"Gie" (Indonesia), Rynichi Hiro-ki's "It's Only Talk" (Japan), Ying Liang's "Taking Father Home" (China) and Sandip Ray's "After

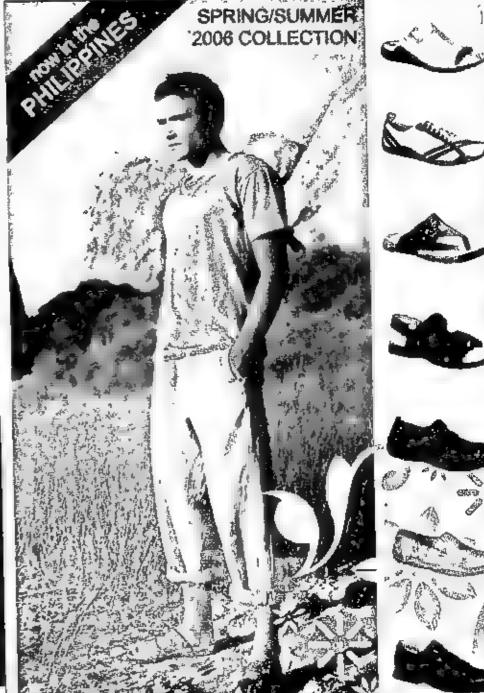
Special section

A special section of the festival that struck us is "The New Philippines Digital Cinema."

Changi Express' Sheryl Quek includes Del Mundo's film in her short list of must-see films at the festival.

Indeed, the world is noticing the efforts of our filmmakers to help the Philippine movie industry rise from the slump it's in!





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From page A3-1

walks away. and asks De Leon if the ac- about to take Palermo's eryone on the set. The stars tional Artist for Film.

conaborative effort from lights go off! There is a "candlelight" dinner in this everyone. On the night's brownout. Calmly, Romero romantic love story by the Romero is considerate lastd shot, as Romero is calls it a day and thanks ev- country's only living Na-

tor is ready for a take. It is a medium shot, suddenly the and staff then head for a



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COLUMN TO A SEC.



SATURDAY, **APRIL 29, 2006**

Downbeat surprises on teen 'PBB' show

By Nestor U. Torre

LAST APRIL 23, ABS-CBN introduced the 12 young lookers who are the new housemates" in Channel 2's edition of "Pinoy Big Brother" One by one, they were crotted out for the viewing public's curious and fond perusal.

Amelican con the fe Atienza, but the oth-Tree Comments Michael Lee, Kim Ches bare seemen Mar Maradoner Should a Obispo, Matthew Evans, Clare Cabigum, Aldred Gatchalian and Mikki Arceo) had their own plus points going for them.

Getting top masks

00 0000 0000 00000

Clearly, we're in for a fun and frisky time with these new star wannabes.

First impression

After that upbeat first impression, however, the initial week

from Interview with Grage Rolls



ANDERSON, Top

marks for looks. of "PBB Teen" sightings has been less than choice. This latest batch's youth gives its members a winning vitality, but it also makes them look

like peas in a pod. Ler's hope that they'll soon reveal individual traits that will add variety to their daily "aquarium" act on TV, or else Alemeta, interest could pail more quickly than expected.

To be sure, if the teen edition's expected viewership is made up of similarly young people, they could be happy enough just watching the show's frisky bunch do its thing in front of the show's all-seeing cameras, from day to day.

It's older viewers who could want more, and not get it from the new TV challenge that seeks to celebrate teenagers in all their youth, beauty-and sameness.

Team spirit

In any case, the show's first week of telecasts has generally affirmed expectations, with the teen housemates being given tasks meant to deverop their team spirit Also par for the course are the budding romantic relationships, crushes, giggly teen talk and give.

What is turning out to be a downbeat surprise, however, is the early emergence of covert infighting and even ournght verbal brawls, as their stressful fishbowl existence quickly gets to the show's young housemates.

Being teenagers, they are less ready to cope with those unnatural stresses than the challenge's previous, older housemates.

So the program's resident counselors and youth psychologists have their work cut out for them to help the teens get a better handle on their admittedly disconcerting existence on "PBB".

All "alone" in a house-but for all the world to see! That's a contradic-

tion in terms that requires greater maturity to deal with.

Breakdowns We're also bothered

by what seems to be an emerging "neurot-K" streak among some of the young house. Emotional breakdowns, tearful catfights, stillen withdrawals—these are happening too early in the game, so what gives? Of course, these

outbursts make the show more "eventful," but at what cost to the 12 teens' equanimity? We trust that the young housemates' relationships will not continue to deteriorate, especially when the romantic angle, with all of its passions and frustrations, starts to kick in. Finally, we hope

that, after the teen challenge is over, its 12 young housemates turn out to be better people than they were when they first entered Big Brother's "aquarium" last April 23. Isn't that what all this fuss and bother should be about?

New recording company offers alternative to mainstream

By Jocelyn Valle

THE LOCAL REcording industry is bouncing back with hit albums (the duo MYMP and sou. siren Nina closed 2005 by hitting the

mum mark seven and six times, respectively) and chartbusting music videos (OPM

gives foreign

week on MYX)-encouraging signs for

Uphill battle

open shop.

But Eugene Villaruz, president and general manager of Honday Records, admits it's an uphill battle against the current players that that the scene has are affiliates of ei- gone back to the sinther a global con- gles market of yore g.omerate or a grant when 45 rpm vinyl network.

"We'd rather be the alternative to be mainstream,* points out. "We'll find a new niche."

Holiday Records' roster is made up of newbies like promising comedienne Janna Trias and Fülpino-

CD Lites are already in the can and are just awaiting airplay from radio stations.

Vocalist

First Circle vocalist

Ria Garcia, soap ac-Deejay Durano and "Search a Million,

Season palist Anna Baluyot BOW recording

competition every their own CD Lites. Eugene confirms that producing a CD new record labels to Lite that features only half a dozen tracks is a good way of introducing a fresh talent to the pubac.

Economical

"It's economical," he explains, adding records ruled

"If the CD Lite succeeds, then we can make it into a fulllength album," he shares

Allyna, the voice naughty benind songs "Kahit Gaano Kalaki" and "Hindi na Masakit," turned

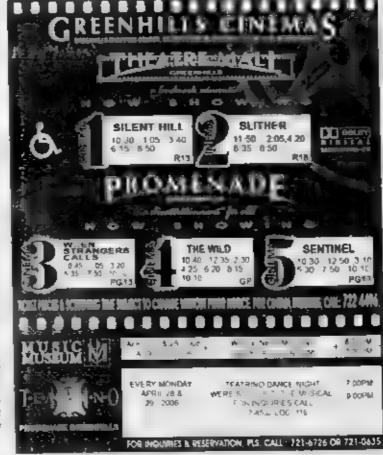
Chinese balladeer to producing her own Mike Chan, whose CD Lite, which will be distributed by Holiday Records.

Title track

The title track is "I Dreamed Never Someone Like You Could Love Someone Like Me," originally done by Katie Irving for the "Carrie" soundtrack.

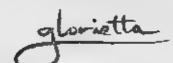
Bugene happily reports that popular band Side A and singer Agot Isidro have also signed up Holiday with Records

The best thing about working for an upstart company is being granted more control and freedom," beams. "it's very challenging)"



















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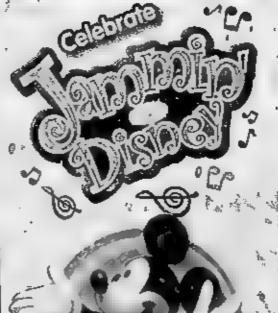
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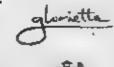
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SATURDAYSpecial



Cinemalaya 2006 is on the right track

By Andy Bais

2: When A Stranger

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3: Silent Will

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Cate Show (Apr. 28) Hypy Volume (Apr. 28) Side A (May 6) Starmed Edito.

2: When A Stranger Calls

finished products, Robbie Tan, chairman of the indie filmfest's monitoring team, is confident that the filmmakers of the 10 festival en-WITH A MONTH TO GO FOR THIS YEAR'S tries will be able to meet the May 31 deadline. batch of Cinemalaya entries to submit their In fact, some entries are now about to start post-production work, while others are on

their final shooting days.

This year's entries are different from last year's in a number of ways, according to Robbie. "Mas maraming out-of-town location. 'Batad sa Paang Palay' is being shot in the Cordilleras, and Donsol,' in Sorsogon. Mas varied din ang mga storyline. For example, Domingo Lazam III's Anino sa Apuhap is about love, truth and infidelity in the world of the blind.

Female boxers

In Da Red Korner' is about female boxers and 'Saan Nagtatago si Happiness' is about the search of an ice cream vendor for his lost mother. These are the types of movies that local mainstream cinema would not have done."

There is also a marked increase in the number of mainstream stars in this year's entries, notes Robbie. "Last year's best actress winner Meryll Soriano is in two projects, 'In Da Red Korner' and 'Rotonda.'

"Saan Nagtatago ni Happiness' features several mainstream veterans—Caridad Sanchez, Nanette Inventor, Rez Cortez, Lou Veloso, Ricky Davao and Nome Buencamino."

"Part of the reason no mos maraming mainstream stars ngayon could be the success of the first Cinemalaya compention. A lot of them want to try the indie experience-working with first-time film directors who have a different way of telling a story-and maybe, experience a style of filmmaking which is very different from mainstream."

Thus far, it's hard to judge the quality of the films, says Robbie. "Part of our monitoring team's job is to watch the films' raw footage. A film can transform into a beautiful piece of work or maging pangit siya after post-produc-

tion. Any masasabi lang namin at this point, ay kung tama ang casting or kung off ang shots. And I have to tell them straight to the point kung pangit ang ginagawa nila.

"Happy ako at wala pa namang na- offend sa mga comment ko. Siguro, dahil I also help them in other aspects. For example, they need a certain star and they don't know how to go about it, ako na ang kakausap sa manager at tatawad pa sa talent fee."

Advice

Monitoring team member John Nepomuceno adds that the advice they give to the present crop of filmmakers extends beyond proper handling of funds, casting and technical aspects. They also help them in the creative side of the production.

*Kinukulit namin sila. Aside from doing paperwork and constant phone calls to know the progress of their work, we also visit them during shoots to see how they are doing. But, the filmmakers still have the last say on their work," says John.

While some of the entries have taken off smoothly, others were not as lucky. "Mga Attno sa Apuhap" took some time to start grinding because the script underwent changes. The film's director also had a hard time look ing for an efficient line producer.

Supportive

Other causes of delay were technical in nature, says John-unavailability of shooting equipment, or the high rental cost from providers. Fortunately, some technical providers were supportive. "Credit goes to the success of the Cinemalaya last year. Somehow, they want to be part of it this year," John observes.

Untoward incidents do happen, like the two-week serback in the production of "In Da Red Korner," when its production manager passed away while on duty.

On the lighter side, Robbie is happy with the working attitude of this year's Cinemalaya filmmakers. Thus far, parang walang mga 'diva' ngayon. Based on our comments so kanilang submitted tapes of raw footage, nakita naman namin na may improvement sa trabaho nila sa susunod na submission. That means they don't take our comments personally."

Where are the religious films of yore?

By Behn Cervantes

"WHERE ARE THE RELIGIOUS FILMS? WHY aren't they being shown anymore?," asked Ellen Alvarez after a sumptuous Bacolod lunch

Ellen's sadness was ampufied by her husband Babes, and Rovi, my niece. Yes, what happened to those epic films they used to show during Lent?," Ellen continued. "Remember 'Marcelino Pan y Vino?'," I asked. "Samson and Deluah?' and 'The Ten Commandments?," added Rovi.

These days, there is little concern for the significance of Christmas or Lent. Explosive action films or gooey romantic films are exhibited despite the public's need for serious and thought-provoking fare. Movie exhibitors exert little effort to complement the significance of the seasons.

"Who played Samson again?," Ellen asked "Victor Mature!," I answered. Then, I remembered actors who are known for their "religious" roles:

Most prominent

Charlton Heston was Moses in "The Ten Commandments," and played the title role in "Ben Hur."

Mannee kilol Jeffrey Hunter reprised the role of Jesus in "King of Kings." The flist version made some 40 years before was in black and white. The Hunter version was in Technicolor and Cinemascope. Mature essayed the title role in "Demetrius and the Gladiators."

Deborah Kerr as the Christian love of Robert Taylor's centurion was saintly and in-

spiring in the classic, "Quo Vadis." Jennifer Jones won a best actress Oscar for "The Song of Bernadette." Her portrayal impressed colegialas who aspired to become a samt like her.

Role models

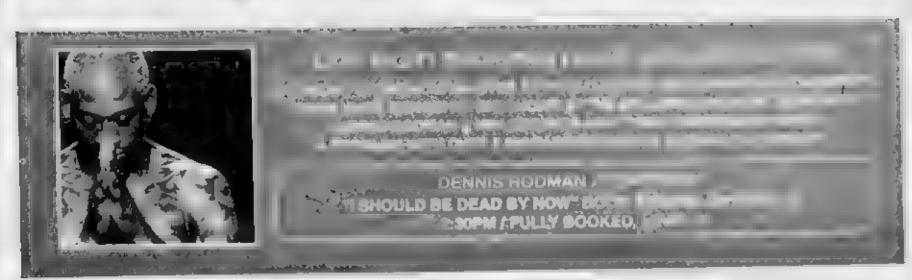
Coleginias eager for Hollywood role models were confused when Ingrid Bergman portrayed the feisty but vulnerable "St. Joan." When the French maiden was burned at the stake, many of them wept. A.as, ingrid was soon involved in a scandal so shocking that Tinseltown "condemned" her and her lover, Roberto Rossellini, for more

than a decadel Richard Burton was himself involved in a religious "transformation" in "The Robe." Hollywood's first Cinemascope production was epic (and was as well received in the Philippines as were "The Ten Commandments" and "Ben Hur").

It turns out that Burton was wooing his leading lady, Jean Summons, while the religious film was being short This stressed Jean's ealous husband, Stewart Granger, Eventually, the couple divorced

Movie fans soon realized that there was a difference between what was reel and real, but their yen for religious films during Lent remains the same. But, where are they





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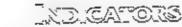
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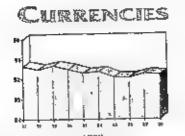
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Moody's urged to consider rating upgrade





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GOLD: \$638.30-638.80 per ounce Hong Kong, April 28, 2006

Shares end lower



Teves says indicators show 'substantial gains' on fiscal front

By Michelle V. Remo

THE PHILIPPINES HAS URGED RATINGS FIRM Moody's Investors Service to consider upgrading the country's credit rating.

Finance Secretary Marganto Teves said he told officials of Moody's that despite the country's huge debt stock, the country has achieved substantial gains on the fiscal front. Teves met with the Moody's executives during the recent roadshow by Philippine economic officials in New York.

Teves said he had asked Moody's

nize other indicators that would show how much the country's fiscal sector

has improved. The Philippines' credit rating with Moody's stands at four notches below investment grade, making it more expensive to borrow abroad because of the risk premium.

"(Fiscal officials from the Philip-

for the high debt levels," Teves said. "There should be other criteria to be considered, and we have already made substantial progress in other areas."

Teves cited the government's shrinking budget deficit, which has allowed the allocation of more money for social services and infrastructure.

Under the fiscal program for 2006, the government has earmarked 30 percent of the expected additional revenues from the VAT Reform Law for pump-priming purposes, mainly to build additional farm-to-market roads and bridges, and improve education and health services.

INSIDE

Inflation to reach 7.7% in April, BSP estimates

Meat firms commit to hold off price increases



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BUSINESS

Inflation to reach 7.7% in April, BSP estimates

European courier urged to put up bub in Subic

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE GOVERNMENT IS WOOing a European courier service firm to put up shop in Subic as the scheduled transfer of Federal Express' Asian hub from the freeport to China nears.

An official privy to the matter said authorities had invited the company to visit possible sites in Subic and assess opporrunities for a hub of operations here through their respective distribution network.

The official declined to name the firm, saying it might get turned off with the premature publicity.

With American firms Fedex services in the Philippines. operating a hub in Subic and half of the four biggest package delivery and supply chain service providers in the world.

The remaining two are Netherlands-headquartered TNT NV and Germany's DHL International, both of which already have presence here.

At the same time, Trade Secretary Peter B. Pavila said the government was still trying to convince Fedex to keep its hub in the Philippines.

"We have met with Fedex officials in the United States and we asked them to at least maintain their presence in the country," Pavila said.

He added that Fedex had announced plans to put up back office support operations as well as customs clearance and billing

Early last year, Peder an-UPS in Clark special economic nounced it was putting up a zone, the country is hosting new Asia-Pacific hub in China and would no longer renew its contract with Subic when it expires in 2008.

Regulator points to oil price hikes, impact of expanded VAT

By Dorls C. Dumiao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS SEES the average inflation in April inclung up to 7.7 percent due to the unabated oil price increases and the effect of the higher value-added

"It may be higher than in March due to increases in oil prices," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said yesterday.

For February and March, annual inflation firmed up at 7.6 percent, but the BSP was not yet sure if the rate peaked in April when global oil prices surged to a record \$75 a barrel.

In a briefing yesterday, BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Gunngundo said that for the whole year, the BSP expects average inflation to range between 7.3-7.9 percent, exceeding the official target of 4-5 percent.

"Inflation will remain above target in 2006 but will revert to target in 2007 in the absence of any new adverse factors," Guinigundo

The BSP's latest assessment indicates that the country's inflation could ease to 4-5 percent by next year assuming that Dubai oil prices would not exceed \$63.36 a bar-

"Despite the impact of the increase on the VAT rate, inflation forecasts continue to point to a deceleration in the second half of 2006,"

In line with the BSP's expectations, inflation rose in the first quarter of the year, reflecting the impact of the 2-percentage point Increase in the VAT rate.

"However, first-quarter average inflation was lower relative to the same quarter in 2005 as the upward pressures on inflation were cushioned by the strengthening of the peso, stabilizing liquidity growth and the rollback in prices of selected oil products in March," Tetangco said.

Tetangco noted that liquidity growth had

stabilized but remained ample, helping boost

"Reduced government borrowing helped temper the growth in domestic liquidity,

which nonetheless remained ample due to foreign exchange inflows from overseas filipino worker remittances and portfolio investments," Tetangco said

"Positive market sentiment owing to improvements in the fiscal sector has driven down bond yields and contributed to the strengthening of the peso against the US doliar," he added.

For its part, the BSP's policy-making Monetary Board kept the BSP's policy rates unchanged during the first quarter.

Looking ahead, a number of factors provide continued policy space to keep monetary settings steady in the near term," Tetangco

Oil prices are seen to constitute the dominant risk to the outlook for prices in the face of limited global spare capacity, making energy prices vulnerable to any perceived uncer-

tainty in the supply chain. "Monetary authorities remain strongly commutted to achieving the inflation target for 2007 and addressing the risks to future inflation. In the months ahead, the main policy priority continues to be that of managing the risk of potential second-round effects on wage and price setting," he said.

PAL, Gulf Air ink pact

By Daxim L. Lucas

BAHRAIN-BASED GULF AIR AND flag carrier Philippine Airlines yesterday sealed a deal allowing both airlines to offer seats to clients on each other's flights.

The deal also allows both carriers to profit from the scheme whenever their own clients fly on the routes of the other airline.

With the so-called "special pro-rate agreement," PAL will be able to offer flight to Europe to its passengers using Gulf Air's network to Dublin, Frankfurt and Paris, Gulf Air president and CEO James Hogan said in a press

Gulf Air, for its part, will benefit from Philippine Airlines'

routes in Asia, he said. Officials of both airlines declined to reveal financial details of the deal although both groups said that the scheme was "promising."

At the same time, Gulf Air and PAL also formalized their code share agreement which actually began commercial operations late last month.

The agreement was signed recently at GulfAir's headquarters in Manama, Bahrain by Gulf Air network vice president Fareed Al Alawi and PAL senior assistant vice president for external affaus Ma. Socorro R. Gonzaga.

Subic investor to pay for settlers' relocation

By Ronnel W. Domingo

A KOREAN SHIPBUILDER THAT IS PUTTING up a \$1-billion facility in Subic is picking up the tab of relocating informal settlers in the project site to another area in an effort to hasten the start of its operation.

Armand C. Arreza, chief executive of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, said Hanjin Shipping Co. Ltd. would pay for the costs of moving some 300 households to an area not too far from the Redondo peninsula where the shipyard would be built.

Arreza said the company had already paxl for new school buildings that would replace the existing elementary and a high school in

He said Hanjin was taking the mitiative on its own and had signed a relocation agree-

It was not divulged, however, how much Hanjin had earmarked for the relocation.

But since the agreed relocation site is not yet ready, the company will build temporary accommodation for the families," Arreza

Asked how cooperative the settlers were, he said most were amenable to the arrangement with Hanjin, although about 10 or 12 families were "resistant."

The SBMA administrator added that Haniin had committed to take into its workforce at least one household member of the settler families. The company is expected to employ 6,000 people for this project.

"Hangin needs to start developing the ship-yard and raise a workforce," he said. "I learned that it already has orders for four vessels from a chear in France."

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Minkstein Bld Price 152,980.00 LOT 10 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT Lot Ansa: 317.00 more. Floor Area: 78.00 sqm Lot 6760 (Pla-98 Ext.) 44. L. Guezon Ave. South Pobles Mirmum Ski Price 517,500,00

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training of welders in Subic.

Education and Skills Development Authority for the production of qualified welders who would help manufacture vessels that could stand the rigors of the high seas and of voyages through various climates and extreme

In an earlier interview, Arreza said the planned shipyard would be the fourth-largest in the world and would be able to handle big vessels that can accommodate 8,000-twentyfoot equivalent units (a TEU being a 20-foot dry-cargo container.

The shippard will take five years to build

Moody's ... From page B1

Teves also noted the gains in the privatization of state assets, which boosted the government's revenue collection efforts.

Last year, the government was able to generate more than P2 billion from the sale of public assets, including shares in Philippine

Nationa, Bank The finance chief also stressed the fact that despite the government's heavy debt load, the liabilities were long term in nature, thus putting the country's debt position very far

from crisis levels. ING Investment Management earlier projected that the Philippines was not likely to get a credit-rating upgrade in the near term because rating firms normally put a high premium on debt levels when issuing credit ratings.

The financial firm noted that the national government's debt-to-GDP ratio of 83 percent, which was much higher than those in neighboring countries, was still far from the

sustainable level of 50 percent. in absolute terms, the debt of the national government reached P3.88 million in end-2005.

Rob Drijkoningen, head of ING's emerging markers debt group, said the Philippines has to cut its debt-to-GDP ratio to 70 percent or below to get a credit-rating upgrade. At the rate the Philippines' fiscal reform

program was going, he added, it would take the country until 2009 to get an upgrade But Teves said that considering the fact that

the Philippines was coming from a very high debt level, credit-rating firms should take into consideration the manner by which it improves its fiscal standing instead of looking at the absolute debt figure alone.

Shares ... From page B1

Wornes about the security situation given possible street protests on Monday, Labor Day, also prompted investors to take profits on select heavyweights.

Pinancial markets will be closed Monday for the holiday.

The composite index fell 10.86 points to 2,270.53 after trading between 2,266.10 and 2,283.33. Volume was 2.22 billion shares worth P1.56 billion.

The broader all-shares index retreated 0.70 points to 1,408.43. Gamers led losers 59 to 39, with 51 stocks unchanged. "Investors prefer to take the safe side. May

1 is distracting them," said Astro del Casallo of First Grade Holdings. Dealers said most stocks were now at over-

bought levels after recent strong gains. Ayala Land led the decline, ending down 75 centavos at P11.75. Its parent, Ayana Corp., gained P2.50 to close at P360.

Top-traded PLDT ended at a fresh record high, up P10 at P2,045.

San Miguel A-shares, restricted to Filipino Investors, ended steady at P64. San Miguel Bshares, available to foreign investors, were down a peso at P80.

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As at April 26, 2006) HIGH

Too low interest rates worry ING

Philamlife '05 profit up 44%

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

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THE PHILIPPINE AMERICAN LIFE AND General Insurance Co. (Philamlife), the country's leading life insurer, said its consolidated net income grew 44 percent to P3.8 billion last year from P2.6 billion a year ago.

Philamlife also reported a record P29 5 billion in gross revenue last year, up 5.3 percent from year-ago level.

"The high net worth, Filipino-Chinese and overseas Filipino workers markets remain solid contributors to Philamlife's production. We also had a good year from our bancassurance operations," Philamlife president Jose L. Cuisia, Jr. told reporters in a briefing yesterday.

In particular, Philam Equitable Life Assurance Co. posted P989 million in total premuums in its second full-year operation. Pelac is a partnership between Philamlife and Equitable PCI Bank.

Cuisia said Pelac posted a 228-percent growth in first year premiums.

Philamlife's pre-need affiliate, Philam Plans, maintained its leading position in the pre-need industry with a 23 percent market share in new sales.

It accounted for P4.63 billion or 23 percent of the pre-need industry's total new sales of P20 billion last year.

Despite the crisis of confidence that affected the pre-need industry, Philam Plans said its trust fund assets posted a P1.8-billion surplus in 2005

Last year, Philam Plans paid P550 million in pension, education and life benefits last year. This year, it will pay

Philam Asset Management Inc. also posted a net income of P146.3 million last year or 13.5 percent higher than the previous year

Seen making RP less competitive

By Michelle V. Remo

THE PHILIPPINES WAS TOLD TO EXERCISE caution over the continued decline of domestic interest rates.

ING Investment Management, a subsidiary of the ING Group, said that while the lower rates trim down the cost of government borrowings, they could also make the country less competitive in attracting silvestments.

It noted that the amount by which interest rates were declining in the Philippines might not be commensurate with its credit rating.

It said existing investors might opt to transfer their investments to countries perceived less risky than the Philippines and were offering higher interest rate. "I-bill rates can only go so low because if it falls

lower than inflation rate, then you don't have a real interest rate," said PJ Garcia, chief investment officer of ING Investment Management. The firm said the rate for the Philippines'

10-year bonds had already fallen 300 basis points in a span of only four months."

Early in the year, the 10 year T-bond rate

cent," it added.

stood at 10 percent, now it is down to 7 per-

The 91-day T-bill rate neared its four-year low and stood at 4.6 percent last April 17 before settling at 4.62 percent the week after. The current T-bill rate is already lower than. the country's inflation rate, which hat 7.6 percent last month.

A lower-than-inflation interest rate means that whatever investors gain from investing in debt instruments would only be gobbled up by the increase in consumer prices.

Rob Drijkonungen, head of ING's emerging markers debt group, said the Philippines should work on having a strong balance-of-payments position to ensure that it was protected from the adverse effects of capital flight

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas earlier reported that the country's BOP position hit a surplus of \$2.029 billion, which the central bank considers a healthy level.

But while noting the downside of a declining interest rate, ING acknowledged that the trend reflected the improving market confidence in the Philippines.

SMC securities sale postponed

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

SAN MIGUEL CORP POSTPONED THE SALE of its hybrid perpetual securities as it ordered a probe of claums that its beverage subsidiaries had overstated their sales figures.

In a disclosure yesterday, San Miguel chief finance officer Ferdinand Constantino said the company had received an "anonymous and undated letter alleging overstated sales in one of its subsidiaries, Philippine Beverage Partners Inc. (Philbev)."

Constantino said San Miguel's audit committee had initiated the investigation tob be conducted by external, independent accounting and law firms.

The total sales of Philbey was placed at 2.1 percent of SMC's group-wide sales of P227 billion. Prior to the announcement, a market

source said the SMC issue had attracted more: than \$750 million of orders.

The deal, which will be callable in five years and at the end of each quarter thereafter, was scheduled for pricing yesterday. The source said the issue size had yet to be fixed. An e-mail sent to potential investors on Thursday said the offer would have a range of \$300 million to \$400 million.

The indicative yield remained at 9.0 percent for the Philippine offering, which banking sources said was the first hybrid issue from an Asian company other than financial institutions.

Cingroup, Credit Suisse, Deutsche Bank DE and HSBC are joint bookrunners for the offerong, which is rated (P)Ba3 by Moody's Investors Service and B by Standard & Poor's.

San Miguel is 20 percent held by Japan's Kirin Brewery. With a report from Reuters

Si Mien Añover, meleyo eng nereling:

Sa pagpapaunlad ng barangay, saludo kay Mian ang Shell. Layunin ng Shell, malayo ang marating n'yo.

STATE OF THE PARTY OF SERVICE OF



Ang Narating ni Mian Añover.

Sa kanyang layunin na malangat ang antas ng pamumuhay sa Sitio Rustan, Barangay Langgam, San Pedro, Laguna, malayo ang narating or Mian.

Noong 2002, namulat sı Mian sa kahirapan ng Sitio Rustan nang puntahan ang libing ng asawa ng kanyang Yaya Lita na taga-roon.

Inampon ni Mian ang Sitia Rustan, Kasama ang kanyong mga kamag-anak at kaibigan, itinayo nila ang St. Josemaria Day Care Center at multi-purpose hall, nagsimula ng catechism classes at misa linggu-linggo, medicaldental missions. livelihood seminars, at mga anim na buwang feeding program. Tinulungan din nilang maayos ang mga papeles ng mga nais magpakasal at maghanap ng trabaho. Nagtayo din sila ng small lending program para sa puhunan ng iba't-ibang malilut na negosyo.

Isang halimbawa si Mian ng tunay na pagbibigaytulong; bukal sa kalooban, walang hanap na kapalit. Layunin ng Shell na tulod niya, malayo ang marating n'yo.

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E-mail: pr_science_health@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang Assistant Editor Stella O. Gonzales

Networking against cancer

SCIENCE H

By Charles E. Buban

FRE-COUGHS quently, his breathing is labored, and the sound of his breath as he exhales is very noticeable—clear signs he is suffering from chronic obstructive monary disease (COPD).

But 65-year-old Soter Aytin would rather go through this lifelong and currently incurable condition than go back to a disease he has somehow managed to overcome: lung cancer.

"It has been almost three years after my doctor told me my lungs were clear of cancer. My last followup visit a month ago confirmed the same," said Aytin, who is currently taking medications and undergoing rehabilitation to manage his COPD symptoms.

According to Aytin, life after cancer is anything but ordinary.

"You will be relieved to finish treatment, yet it is hard not to worry that the cancer might come back. It may take a while before your confidence in your own recovery begins to feel real," Aytin said.

Helping others

Aytin said he did not want other people to experience what he went through, being diagnosed with cancer, endless chemotherapy and rehab sessions and the feeling of anxiety while waiting for the results of each exam.

He feels he has a responsibility to help others realize that they may be exposing themselves to risks that could lead to cancer.

"In my own little way, I urge them to quit smoking [a primary risk factor for cancer] and if there is a chance, to share my story," said Aytin.

Thus, for more than a year now, he



visits malls and public places in Muntinlupa where he lives to distribute mostly home-made posters and leaflets that urge people not to smoke.

However, Aytin realized he needed the help of others to realize his goals.

"We aiready have cancer support groups, but it would be beneficial if our of Medical Oncologists. legislators sponsor a bill creating a center for cancer research and prevention With such an agency, more people will have access to the best available treatment options," said Aytan.

Cancer network

At the moment, the closest semblance of such an agency in the Philippines is the C-Network (www.cnetwork.org.ph), an anticancer advocacy campaign established by the Department of Health, Philippine Cancer Society, a number of private and public cancer patient support groups and pharmaceutical and diagnostics company Roche (Philippines) Inc.

The C-Nerwork is an alliance of cancer-focused individuals and organizarions that seek to enhance the standards of care and education for cancer patients and their families in the Philippines, explained Dr. Gerardo Cornelio, vice president of the Philippine Society

3rd leading cause of death

Cornelio said the C-Network helps cultivate better relationships in the medical community, particularly those in medical associations and organizations such as the PSMO.

"This campaign is important considering that cancer with lung and colon/rectum cancer for both sexes and breast cancer in women topping the list-is the third leading cause of death in the country next only to infectious and cardiovascular diseases," said Cornelio.

"Our current understanding of the causes of cancer is incomplete since the disease develops gradually as a result of a

complex mix of factors related to environment, lifestyle and heredity," he said.

"While some people are more sensitive than others to factors that can cause cancer, scientists have estimated that about 80 percent of all cancers are related to the use of tobacco products, to what we eat and drink or, to a lesser extent, to exposure to radiation or cancer-causing agents in the environment and the workplace," he said.

Cornelio cited smoking, dietary imbalances (excess fat and calories; inadequate intake of fruits, vegetables, fiber and calcium), and chronic infections leading to chronic inflammation (from heparitis B and C viruses) as the three main causes of cancer

Cornelio said that through C-Net work, they would be able to bring more groups and individuals together to get more information about cancer. Aytin has said that he intended to join the network to pursue his fight against the disease, and the factors that cause it.

Fruits of our trees

DURING THE NATIONal Inventors Week, the Outstanding Creative Research Award and Philips Most Promising Invention Award went to cococoir, which came from the ubiquitous coconut husk. Our farms produce 12 billion coconut fruits (and husks) a year, and now these Queena N. could be put to even Lee-Chua better use.



Made from fibers and pith of the coconut husk, the cococoir board is made without using any synthetic binder. Because of its high lightn content, cococoir has a natural binder. The Forest Products Research & Development Institute (FPR-(Di) and the Netherlands' Agrotechnology and Food Innovations is now studying the commercial viability of this technology, backed by the UN Common Fund for Commodities.

According to researcher Dwight Eusebio, the boards are stronger than many particle boards and because they are "binderless," they are expected to be much cheaper. Hopefully, the product can eventually displace the laworit which we import at millions of dollars a year

Local wood industry

Tree farmers and wood processors in Compostela Valley are involved in the Integrated Woodwarking Development Project to produce wood-based products from gmelina and other fast-growing trees. These products can be made into school desks, poles, pallets, furniture and lumber. Sponsored by the DOST, DTI, and DENR, the project aims to revitalize Southern Mindanao's wood industry.

The Mabini Industrial Tree Plantation will serve as the anchor firm to small tree farmers and woodworking companies that will join the project. It has equipment and facilities and holds an Industrial Forest Management Agree ment license for an area of 4,000 hectares

"Southern Mindanao's vibrant wood industry collapsed in the early 1980s due to scarce raw materials. This is no longer a problem as the government's reforestation program resuited in an influx of available wood, such as gmelina from tree farms and industrial plantations. We see this project as the key to revive the industry, bring income to tree farmers, and jobs to thousands in Compostela Valley and nearby provinces," said FPRDI deputy director Dominador Alonzo.

Getting over the 'hump'

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

OSTEOPOROSIS IS A BANE OF POSTmenopausal women. I have a 59-yearold patient who says her chest pains due to her heart problem are nothing compared to her unrelenting aches and pams due to her osteoporosis. She has also been admitted twice for fractures. Osteoporosis, which

increases in frequency after menopause, is a condition wherein the

bone becomes fragile due to loss of bone her physician suspecting its presence. density. The bones turn into a porous structure that is more compressible like a sponge, rather than dense like a brick, which is the way strong, healthy bones

Bone fracture is therefore a frequent complication. Osteoporotic bones can fracture with only a minor fall or injury, or even just by lifting something heavy. Some patients may develop stress fractures of the feet while just walking or stepping off a curb. A fracture can even occur during the course of normal daily activity.

The fracture can either be in the form of cracking (as in a hip fracture) or col-

the vertebrae of the spine). Any skeletal bone in an osteoporotic patient can ger fractured but the spine, hips and wrists are more common areas of osteoporosis-related bone fractures.

The problem with osteoporosis is that it's usually detected late, when the patient develops fractures. In such pa-

tients, osreoporosis has been there for years already with net-MEDICAL FILES ther the patient nor

Severe pain

A fractured vertebra of the spine can cause severe "band-like" pain that radiates from the back to the side of the body. The pain may not be severe enough, but if one has chronic low back pain, she should consult her doctor

Osteoporosis is a strong suspect if the pain is accompanied by loss of height or curving of the spine, which gives the individual a hunched-back appearance called a "dowager hump."

lapsing (as in a compression fracture of one can prevent or retard in progression to more severe stages. Sedentary women develop asteoporosis more than others. Regular exercise can help prevent it. Weight bearing exercises are particularly helpful, but the weight should just be light. Adequate calcium, vitamin D, and in some cases, medications are important for maintaining

bone bealth. Currently, bisphosphonates such as ibandronate (Bonviva), calcitonin, estrogens and parathyroid hormone are approved by the US Food and Drug Administration for the prevention and/or treatment of osteoporosis.

Bone remodeling

Osteoporotic bones can be "remodeled" to make them stronger. Bone remodeling consists of two phases: bone resorption and bone formation.

During resorption, special cells on the bone's surface dissolve bone tissue and create small cavines. During formation, other cells fill the cavities with new bone tissue. When there is balance between bone resorption and forma-There is no cure for osteoporosis, but tion, there is no osteoporosis. When

bone resorption is faster than formation, one develops osteoporosis.

Bisphosphonates (alendronate, ibatadronate and risedronate), calcitorun and estrogens act by preventing bone resorption, and are classified as antiresorptive drugs. These medications slow or stop the bone-resorbing portion of the bone-remodeling cycle but do not slow the bone forming portion of the

Bisphosphonates prevent the breakdown of bone by cells called osteoclasts. In people who are at high risk for osteoporosis, bisphosphonares not only result in increased amounts of bone and bone strength, they also reduce the risk of hip fractures and other bone fractures. As a result, new formation continues at a greater rate than bone resorption, and bone density may increase over time.

Some preparations of these drugs may be given just once a week or even once a month as in the case of Bonviva. But it can't be overemphasized that maintaining a regular exercise is a postmenopausal woman's strong bet to prevent and retard osteoporosis.

Cashew nut

More good news: The haud from the shell of the cashew nut has been widely used in India and Brazil to produce products such as brake liming of motor vehicles, industrial belts and clutches, heat- and water-proof paints, corrosion-resistant stove varnishes and special quality lacquers, electric cables and heavy-duty granding and cutting discs.

These applications are practically unknown here, but fortunately our chemists are currently studying ways to make the most out of the cashew nut. Researcher Mildred Fidel reports, "We found that the properties of local materials meet international standards."

The country produces 120 million kg of cashew nuts and 20 million kilos of their precious bouid a year.

Lastly, congratulations to Undersecretary Portunato T. dela Peña, who received the Outstanding Career Executive Officer and Dangal ng Bayan award. He played a key role in formulating the National Science and Technology Plan for 2002 to 2020 and in instituting several e-Governance programs, like the e-Library project (which modernizes the National Library and the libraries of the DOST, Department of Agriculture, and Commission on Higher Education)

His projects are "citizen-centric and userfriendly," including Pagasa's Interactive Chmate and Weather Information Network, 1 have the good fortune of serving on the editorial board of the Philippine Journal of Science, which he chairs, and I am impressed by his dynamism and professionalism.

These news bits were excerpted from pieces given by the Science and Technology News Service. My thanks to Rizalina Annal and Pramelia Anonas. email: blessbook@yahoo.com

ASK THE DENTIST Paul R. De Castro, DMD Baby face no more

WHEN MY LITTLE BOY GOT HIS FRONT teeth at 7, he lost his baby face looks. Is this normal?—Shirely D

At age 6 to 9, the child's larger permanent front teeth start to erupt. As a result, there is more vertical growth of the facial skeleton on the upper part of the face, with the lower part giving way to a more longer facial shape compared to the previously round face. The face takes on a different dimension so your child loses his baby face. It's a transition from cute to a more mature look. Expect more skeletal changes as he gets older.

Why it's still avian, not human, flu

ACCORDING TO THE WORLD HEALTH Organization, avian flu, specifically the H5N1 strain, has been reported in birds, both wild and tame, in Asia, Burope, the Middle East and Africa since 2003. As of April 21, the WHO has registered 204 humans who have contracted the disease; 113 of them have died from the illness.

Because those who are first on the scene are usually those who are first to be infected, it is not surprising to find that the patients have had contact with infected birds because they live and/or work with birds on a daily basis.

The WHO is quick to point out that none of the patients actually got infected by eating the birds.

Back in February, Dr. Lee Jong-Wook, WHO director general, issued a statement saying that when poultry products are safely handled and properly cooked, humans are not at risk of acquiring H5N1 infection through food.

Self test

Unfortunately, scientists note in several research journals, the problem is that many people are not properly handling poultry. To find out whether or not you do, answer True or Palse to each statement below

1. I eat raw poultry and/or raw eggs. 2. I chop poultry and vegetables on the same chopping board without washing the board in between.



3. I do not wash my hands after handling raw poultry.

4. I do not cook poultry thoroughly (the meat is still pink when served)

5. I do not cook eggs thoroughly (runny yolks for sunny side-up eggs). If you answer "True" to any of the statements above and eat an infected

chicken, the avian flu virus could still be transmitted to humans. Avian flu isn't the only disease that could result from improper handling

meat and eggs; food poisoning is also a

likely occurrence.

Of greater concern is the notion that humans infected with the avian H5N1 flu could infect other humans

Dr. Luis Gomes Sambo, WHO regional director for Africa, noted during the opening of the regional meeting of the United Nations systems on the avian influenza sitnation last March that "there would be a human influenza pandemic only if a toutated H5N1 strain emerges...which has not been the case, so far."

New research might help ease these

In the March 23 issue of the journal Nature, researchers from the University of Wisconsin and the University of Tokyo propose a means of tracking flu strain mutations based on the differences between cell receptors in human and burd respiratory systems and how they affect the H5N1 strain's ability to allow human-to-human transmission.

Viruses need to enter a cell to reproduce. Receptors serve as keys that let them bind to and enter the cells. Without the receptors, a virus can't enter a cell and replicate to pass the virus onto other cells and other hosts.

Preferred receptors

The researchers found that avian viruses like the H5N1 avian flu strain prefer to bind to SAalpha 2,3Gal receptors located in the alveoli, the small air sacs at the end of the bronch.

Humans have these same receptors, which is why the virus can be passed from animal to human. It turns out though that while human viruses can bind to these same receptors, they prefer the SAalpha 2,6Gal cell receptors in the bronchia, those long tubes that carry air into the lungs and end in alveoli.

Because the H5N1 virus can only replicate "efficiently" in the lower regions of the respiratory system, deep inside the hings, it can't be passed on as quickly from person to person via coughing or succeing as a virus that replicates in the upper respiratory system.

As preparations continue to be made worldwide for a possible pandemic, the research suggests a means of monitoring avian flu strain mutations. Remembering to handle the poultry and eggs properly can also go a long way toward helping prevent human-to-human transmission of the virus.

AirAsia's Super Deals promo

AIRASIA, THE LEADING AND LARGEST LOW FARE airline in Asia, have launched its biggest online campaign at www.airasia.com; urveiling an exciting range of super low fare deals beginning from RM0.99. Guests can look forward to plan and book their travel early to take advantage of the irresistible low fare deals, even during festive seasons. In fact bookings on all AirAsia's domestic and international flights in the Super Deals promotions can also be made for travel right up to March 2007. Looking for good travel packages with offers you value for money? In conjunction with the Super Deals promotions, AirAsia's Go Holiday Travel Packages are available from RM78 per person. Check out goholiday.alrasia.com for more details. The AirAsia Super Deals promotion is only valid for online purchase at www.airasia.com, and available for booking from April 18 to 30 for trevel from June 15, 2006 to March 24, 2007. It is recommended that guests. book early to avoid any disappointment as promotional fares are usually taken up quickly.

PSQ-HNS midyear confab

THE PHILIPPINE SOCIETY OF OTOLARYNGOLOGY Head and Neck Surgery, Blool Chapter will be hesting the Golden Midyear Convention with the therne: "Surgical and Medical Breakthrough", on April 27 to 29 at Casablanca Convention Center in Legazpi City. This affair is a big achievement for the Bicol Chapter considering that it only has 15 members, one of the smallest and youngest chapters nationwide.

Made interior design contest

THE METROBANK FOUNDATION, IN PARTNERSHIP with Federal Land, the Philippine Institute of Interior Designers, United Architects of the Philippines, and BiuPrint, is inviting all registered interior designers 25 to 45 years old to join the Metrobank Art & Design Excellence National Corapetition or Made. Entries should be conceptual designs for a tri-level housing unit using the principle of sustainability, whereby materials used are not manufactured in exploitative ways, to create a man-made habitat that mutually co-exist with the flourishing of nature. Two finalists will be chosen to execute their design, which will be separately sponsored by Federal Land, and will vie for the Grand Prize of 150,000 peacs to be awarded by the foundation. Submission of entries starts April until May 12, at the

PNO Secretariat, 8/f, Filomana Bidg., 104 Amorsolo St., Legaso: Village, Makati City. For queries, call 898-8856 (Metrobank Foundation) or 857-1404 (PIID). Entry forms are available in all Metrobank branches and at the PfID Secretarial. Awarding ceremonies and exhibit will be in September.

TCNMS Akumni Homecoming

THE TAGUM CITY NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL (TC-NHS) High School Class of 1980 is pleased to host the 13th Alumni Homecoming on Sunday, May 7, 1 p.m. at the school campus in Sitio Mangga, Visayan Village. Tagum City. The annual event, with this year's theme. "Doing its Humble Share Towards Community Development", is expected to bring together the 36 batches that have graduated from the school since its foundation in 1967. The event will be highlighted by the recognition/awarding of TCNHS alumni with examplary performance/achievement in the community and field of expertise as well as awarding of plaque of appreclation/recognition to the GPTA prexy and retriend 2006 TONHS faculty-2006 Bar passers and TONHS alumni actilevers. There will be a motorcade at 1 p.m., to be followed by a Mass after which the registration will take place then at 3:30 p.m. the Programme Proper will start. To find out more about the homecoming. call lawyer Luci Mendez at 0917-7053797 and Marissa M. Ordoñez et 0921-4040478. Tara na, magicitatiy, magkumustahay ug magtapok-tapoki"

The St. Francis Towers' US Road Show kicks off May 5

THE ST. FRANCIS TOWERS, THE ISHOK GROUP'S 2nd self-funded residential condominium project, will be formally taunched in the U.S. via a Road Show which will kick off in Los Angeles at the Marriott Los Angeles Downtown on May 5 at 6 p.m. The Road Show will take the St. Francis Sales Team led by Susan Yu, director of sales, to Glandale at the Glandale Hillion, 6 p.m., May 9; City of Industry, Pacific Palms Contererice Resort, 6 p.m., May 11, Cernitos, Sheraton Cerritos Hotel & Towne Center, 6 p.m., May 12, San Diego, Town & Country Convention Resert, 6 p.m., May 15; Las Vegas, Suncoast Hotal & Casino, 3 p.m., May 19; Seattle, Grand Hyalt Seattle, 6 p.m., Chicago, Marriott. O'Hare, 6 purs., May 25; New Jersey, Hyait Regency Jersey City on the Hudson, 9 a.m., May 27; Orlando, Hyatt Regency Orlando, 9 a.m., June 3. In Northern

California: Burlingame, Hyatt Regenoy San Francisco Airport, 5 p.m., June 8; Santa Clara Marrioti, June 16, 6 purpland the Countyard Marriott In Vallejo, Filipino-Americans who will sign up on the spot will get a chance to win free hotel stays in Melati-Shangri-La, Edsa Shangri-La, Strangri-La's Mactan Island Resort & Spa and Traders Hotel. For more information, call 634-

the US) or log on to www.thestfrancistowers.com. Cotton Stuff Baby promo

8080 or 634-8111 or toll-free 1-800-592-0609 (from

COTTON STUFF BABY, A PREMIER RETAILER OF infants' clothing and other essentials offers its summer promo that gives shoppers the chance to take home a Imited edition 10-piece Baby Essentials Gift Set worth over P1,300. A minimum single receipt purchase of P100 from Cotton Stuff branches located at the Intant's Wear Section of 20 SM Department Stores entities the shooper to one tracking card. Each time an additional P100 worth of items is purchased, shoppers will receive a stamp on the card. Once ten stamps have been accumulated, simply surrender the card and the Cotton Stuff Baby Essentials Gift Set is yours for free. The irrited edition gift set contains a 1-shirt, diaper pants, bodysuit, bib, leggings, burp cloth, booties, mittens and 2 pieces of washcloth. Tracking cards may be claimed from April 1 to 30, while stamps and the gift set may be redeemed from April 1 to June 1

Novia launches Mark & Kenneth via men's forum

IN ITS ADVOCACY TO AROUSE ENTREPRENEURIal courage. Novia - one of the fastest growing business networks in the country - launches additional line of sidn care products specifically formulated for men. Branded as Mark & Kenneth, these products are made of organic and natural ingredients and will be launched through a men's forum dubbed as "Men: Exposed" on April 29 at Maku Hari Entertainment Center in Malate. With coach Ryan Gregorio of Purefoods, as one of the panelists, the forum is expected to enlighten the audience on the things that challenge and confront Filipino men.



BICOLANO WINS PI 00,000 IN MINOLA PROMO

Emmanuel Borillo from Caraga, Albay wins P100,000 in the first weekly draw of Minola's Sarap Manato, Sarap Minota promo. Borillo's winning number came from a purchase of the takal-ting; pack, The winning number combination was picked by Dr. Tony V. Concepcion - VP for domestic marketing, and lawyer Narciso P Nario, VP for corporate services. The draw

was supervised by BFAD Representative Julie Aguihap. The Sarap Manalo, Sarap Minula is an on-going text promo of Minola Cooking Oil. Consumers can send in their entries by keying in the unique code found on Minola packs. There will be 16 weekly winners of P100,000 each and a grand draw winner of P1 million. Promo runs until August 8.

UMC ANNOUNCES 5-YEAR PLAN



Universal Motors Corp (UMC) reveated in a press briefing their 5year plan including the introduction of 8 new models. 3 of which are replacement models and 5 are completely new lines which includes a good mix of full SLV MPV/ crossover, varis/ mini vari and pick-up trucks, in photo are LMC president Richard L. Lee. Nissan Asia Pacific Pte Ltd (NAP) vice president Tashimitsu Nose (representing Nissan Global) and LMC senior vice president for marketing Elizabeth H. Lee.

AND ASSESSMENT OF THE PARTY OF THE CLASSIFIEDS

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BITUARIES

In Loving Memory on the Fifth Death Anniversary of

VIRGINIA C. SY GRAPILON

January 03, 1949 April 29, 2001)

San Jose, Occidental Mindoro; Pawikan, Cabucgayan, Biliran, Carigara, Leyte

Her surviving spouse, jag, children René and Milranda (nee de Quiroz) and Raúl; parents Santos (†) and Esperanza Sy, parents-in-law Ex-Mayor Herculano (†) and Rosario (†) Aguilla Graption, eisters Mely and Dr. By and brother-in-law Engr. Omar Costibolo, brother Engr Danny; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law Atty. Jun and Baby Lagunzad.
Atty. Fe Aguila Grapilon (t), Engr. Jens (t) and Paz Sabay, Leo (t) and Atty. Fidelyn. Grapilon, her relatives request her friends and those who loved her and became part of her tife to pray for the eternal repose of her soul

Austicolo thru Pug-1818 a funtafimonti



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Castmiro Development Forte Realty Dad, a day isn't a day without your daily dose of news. So here's one that's sure to make the headlines:

HAPPY BIRTHDAY DAD!!!

From: Monmy, Akang, Iking, Chino, Caloy, Arnold, Toto, Linda, Mel, Inday

BITHARIES

Retiree of United Laboratories, Inc.

Peacefully joined bis Creator on April 26, 2006 at the age of 73.

His body lies in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapel, Guadalupe. Interment will be announced later

"Our Dearly Beloved"

RAMONA TAN DE VEYRA

of Tacioban, Samar and Tamaraw, Leyle who passed away in the Grace of our Lord on April 23, 2006.

Her hosband Manoling; children and grandchildren ask for your sympathy through your prayers.

Her remains lie in state at St. Peter Memorial Chapels, Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on May 3, 2006



Death Notice

JOFFRE CABALLERO MENDOZA Born March 6, 1917 - Died April 26, 2006

He is survived by Fidel & Ameia Stapno, Erwin & Priscilla Walser; grandchildren Michaelangelo & Marie Antonetto, Rev. Fr. Raphael, Gabriel & Ma. Gracia, Ma. Angelica, Jennifer, Jeffrey; and great-grandchildren Patricia, Pamela, and Isabella.

His brothers, sisters, their families and relatives request to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Funeral Mass will be on May 3, 2006 at 9 a.m. at St. Raphael Parish Church, Legazpi City, Albay. Interment follows at B.col Memorias Park.

Falerio en la gracia de Disa 25 April 2006

Sus descuntations tobrum, Chiqui, motos Rica, Chus, JR y Chern, insulctor Republica Adam, sobrinos y dorars femilia ruegan una eracam por el esenso desensos de se plom. Haz de eserpo presente en la Iglesm Holy Tranty Purch, C'hopm St., Ideni solid., Capitol Hills, Queron City

El antierro sem 2:00 p.m., Domingo, Abril 30, 2006, North Cemelery, Massoleo Rope, La Lesti

"Ob, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness." Psalm 107.8

Rita Bolisay Talavera

Gen. Tinio Nueva Ecija and Cabanatuan City

has joined her Creator and her beloved husband Teofilo H. Talavera, Sr. on April 27, 2006 at the age of 101.

She is survived by her children; Gabriela and Felix Santos †, Ret. Judge Teofilo, Jr. and Dr. Aurea Reyes, Trinidad and Rodolfo Janolo, Carmen and Godofredo Velayo, Elsa and Fredesvindo Ramoso, Judge Tomas and Leticia Binuya, Linda and Lorenzo Aleta † and Engr. Teofilo III and Dr. Estrella Gaivez, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Her remains lie in state at the Knights of Columbus Hall, Burgos Avenue (in front of Nucva Ecija National High School NENHS) Cabanatuan City. Interment will take place at the Sagrada Familia Memorial Park on May 02, 2006, Tuesday after the 8:00 A.M. Mass at the St. Nicholas Cathedral, Cabanatuan City.

BUISINESS

Meat firms commit to hold off price increases

By Christine A. Gaylican

MEAT MANUFACTURERS HAVE committed to keep prices of their affordable products, but said they might be forced to increase prices of their high-end products by at least 25 centavos due to soaring prices of tin plates.

This was disclosed by the Philippine Association of Meat Processors of the Philippines Inc. (Pampi), whose 32 member-companies include San Miguel Foods Corp., Purefoods-Hormel, Swift Foods Inc. and CDO-Foodsphere Inc.

Low-end products to be spared from adjustments

president Felix O. Taukinhoy Jr. said in an interview that the industry has committed to hold off increases in the prices of their affordable line of canned meat products, such as corned beef, and frozen meat products, such as hotdogs in the next three

would again increase their prices, the meat processing industry

their high-end line, said Francis co Buencamino, Pampi executive

Tiukinhoy said the meat processing industry could only commit to absorb additional costs due to the increase in the expanded value added tax.

He said that 65 percent of their However, if tin plate importers products target the C, D, and E income segments.

"We could not afford to lose

Virginia Foods Inc. and Pampi would have to jack up prices of these market segments, [we] would rather absorb the cost," Buencamano said.

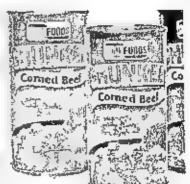
> Pampi's 32 meat processing companies have combined annuat revenues of P65 billion.

Commercial poultry raisers are also holding back price increases for fear of losing more sales.

The Philippine Association Broiler Integrators Inc. has thus urged the government to consider suspending the implementation of the expanded Value Added Tax. "It would be of help to the mdustry because as of now, we

could not afford to loose the market that would further scale down our profitability," said Pabi pres. dent Rota Imeida Palabyab. Pabi, whose members include

San Miguel Foods Corp., Universal Robina Corp., RFM-Swift Foods Corp., Tyson AgriVentures, account for 70 percent of local poultry supply.



HIGHER tin can prices may lead to an increase in prices of highend canned goods.

X AyalaLand PREMIER

"When it comes to spotting The Next Big Thing, you can probably call me an expert." Mr. Joselito Santos Ayala Westgrove Beights Revident

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Westgrove Heights

Spruce Pine





Jardine Land tapping into steadily growing demand for Upscale homes

By Charles E. Buban

DEVELOPER OME Jardine Land is tapping into an increasing demand for high-end residential homes in its Greenwoods Village, a predominantly middle market community in Dasmariñas, Cavite

Orlando Diaz, Jardine Land VP for sales and marketing, believes that the time is also right for an apscare housing development like Norfolk Ridge Residential Estate to be built within the Greenwoods Village vicinity.

"I think that it's a good opportunity right now. For the past years we are being swamped with inquiries about home packages whose prices are already in the upscale range," he reports.



NORFOLK Ridge will be separated by a buffer garden near the entrance.

house and lot packages.

More quality homes

"We noticed that more than the price consideration, homebuyers now want more quality homes-meticulous workmanship, materials used as well as the architectural design. We are providing all of these at Norfolk Ridge," Diaz assures.

There will be three models available:

Norfolk Ridge would offer only 132 the P6.2-million, two-story, three-hedroom Longleaf Pine (with 187-sq-m total floor area on 225-sq-m lor), the P5.9 twostory, three-bedroom Meadow Pine (with 181 sq-m total floor area on 165-sq-m lot), and the P5.8-million two-story, three-bedroom Spruce Pine (with 170-sq-m total floor area on a 150-sq-m lot)).

In comparison, Greenwoods Village home packages go up to around P4 mil-

Not only bigger and more elegant houses, a high-end development like Norfolk Rudge has to be in a good location with interesting features," Diaz says.

Buffer garden

For Jardine Land's latest project, its 3.77-hectare area is located adjacent to the west boundary of Greenwoods Village's phase one and a buffer garden at the entrance was developed to separate the whole property to the rest of the village.

The buffer will also serve as a breathing space where residents could stroll or medi-

"Even while we are still developing Greenwoods Village, we saw thus portion of the land as very unique for developing an exclusive enciave. It's surrounded by lots of trees and its topography is just perfect for the kind of an upscale gated community we are envisioning," Diaz says.

Access to amenities

He adds that future residents of Norfolk Ridge will be given access to Greenwoods Village's already existing amenines and facilities, including sports and leisure centers, basketball court and dayspring gardens (amphitheater, footbridge and fishing area)

"And if the resident want to go out, Norfock Ridge is near recreational establishments like the Enchanted King dom, and is just a short distance away from fine beaches of Caylabne, Puerto Azul or first class golf courses Southwoods, R.viera, Orchard and Tagaytay Highlands," shared Diaz.

Jardine Land, with its development subsidiary, Jardine Properties Inc. is a joint venture formed by five leading companies: Jardine Davies Inc., San Miguel Properties, Hong Kong Land, Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. and Equitable Bank



Start making your home green

GREEN

Amado

ARCHITREND

mental awareness, is a topic hotly debated in various sectors due to us impact on the peoconcerned with many issues such as now their buildings and homes use energy how their health is affected by staying indoors for extended periods, how trees and vegetation

improve their quality of life and how they can continue using up the earth's rethem. in many cases lawmakers, green advocates and ordinary people clash as they debate on these pressing is-

de Jesus Unfortunately, many of the people in this country, from various economic and social levels, are indifferent to these environmental concerns. This is very tragic. Our environmental woes will not disappear if we turn our backs on them. They will only get worse. People simply have to know what "going green" means to get started.

Change way of thinking

There are several steps to start making your home green. The first step, probably the hardest for most people, is changing one's way of thinking. "Going green" means, accepting the notion that there is a better way of doing things, especially in relation to what we do to the environment. We must be aware that everything we do has a direct impact on our surroundings. What we must do is to minimize that intpact, to allow us to "sit lightly" on the land.

This also means learning to adopt new technologies that are now available to help improve our lives while protecting the environment. These may not necessarily be high-tech innovations. Basic principles like providing Light-colored roofing to allow solar heat to bounce off, thermal insulation and exhaust outlets in ceilings to allow hot air to flush out, are green strategies that

MANY COUNTRIES ARE NOW "GOING can be easily adopted. Or it can be as simple green." The phrase, which suggests environ- as adding a roof overhang on a west-facing window, investing in some of these technologies also translate into monetary savple and the environment. These countries are ings in the long run from reduced energy

What strategies to adopt

The next step is to determine what green

strategies to adopt. This may not be as difficult as it sounds. In some cases, the answer may be quite obvious. If water is a problem in the area, then water recycling or minwater harvesting may be the top priority. If the goal

is to reduce energy consumption, it may mean switching from incandescent lamps to the more efficient compact fluorescent lamps or CFL. If replacing several lamps cannot be done at one time, then it can be done gradually.

Another way is to replace power-hungry appliances, like old refrigerators and airconditioners. Obviously, budget constraints will dictate what should be the priorities in this area.

Analyze payback

After determining what green strate-gies to adopt, the next step is to analyze the payback period or the number of years it will take for a strategy to be economical-

Savings can be derived for example from the drop in energy consumption by switching from incandescent lamps to compact fluorescent lamps. Studies for a typical urban household have shown that this strategy can mean monthly savings equivalent to a month's water bill.

Monitor your savings

Once the systems are in place, the next step is to take note of your savings. This



AN EAST-WEST orientation on the long axis of the house provides minimal solar exposure. This house in Green Meadows designed for local climate enjoys large window and door openings for natural lighting and good ventilation. The use of local wood and other green materials contribute to a healthy home environment.

A PI DE JESUS & ASSOCIATES

the efficiency unitiative that has been started. This will also help protect the investments as the new measures are evaluated. Again, this need not be difficult to do.

A simple comparison of the monthly water and electricity bills with that of the previous month's billings will reveal how effective the strategies are, irrespective of whether the savings were derived from the additional roof insulation or the replacement of an old air-conditioning unit.

Consider health benefits

When analyzing the return on investment of any of the strategies, other factors should also be considered like improved building comfort and improved quality of life.

For example, by ensuring that the home is well-ventilated, thermal comfort is attained and what's more, toxic elements that may have accumulated from interior furnishings and finishes can be flushed out. In many cases natural ventilation can easily be derived by simply providing openings at both ends of the home where air flow is unimpeded.

Our health can also be affected by electropollution caused by the wiring that

step is crucial since it will help maintain runs around our home as well as the type of appliances and gadgets that we use. If we constantly surround ourselves with these electronic devices, especially in our bedrooms, we are exposing ourselves unnecessarily to electromagnetic waves, a leading concern of reliable studies that point out its link with high incidence of illness and cancer

Home's value

Aside from health benefits, a home's value is increased when green strategies and measures are installed

The health and economic benefits become attractive to would-be tenants and buyers if and when the owners have to move somewhere else.

Behavioral attitude

Habits or lifestyles of people can also have a direct impact on how green our homes can be. For example, it is very impractical to wear thick clothing simply because our room is air-conditioned, instead of maintaining a slightly warmer temperature while wearing lighter clothes. An electric fan may be enough to cool a room when the weather is not too hot.

Another habit for some people is to fill up the bathrub with gallons of water so they can cool off to avoid the summer heat. Perhaps a more efficient and practical way would be to take a shower to cut down on the use of water. Or one can use the nearest swimming pool facilities.

Growing exotic plants and maintaining large areas of grass, especially blue grass or Bermuda grass, that use up enormous quantiries of water is not a green practice.

Integrated approach

While keeping our own heritage of regional styles and individual characteristics, we can aim to make our homes. healthy by staying in contact with fresh air, sunlight and good views. Green homes are sited and designed with local climate in mind. They are resource efficient and place little demands on the earth by not wasting energy and water

Healthy homes have good indoor air quality largely due to sustainable design and green building materials used. This healing type of architecture is absolutely destaned to be the wave of the future.

For comments or inquiries, e-mail amadodejesus@gmail.com

Enjoying your home minus those irksome termites



National Transmission Corporation

invitation to apply for eligibility and to bid

Service Contract for the Parcellary Survey, Relocation and Subdivision Survey of the Affected Main/Sub-lots of Kirahon -Maramag 230 kV Transmission Line Project Ref. No. PB060202-PP0008

1 The National Transmission Corporation (TransCo), through the CY2006 Corporate Budget intends to apply the sum of P4,320,000.00 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for Service Contract for the Percellary Survey, Relocation and Subdivision Burvey of the Affected Majn/Sub-tots of Kirahon - Maramag 230 kV Transmission Line Project / PR No. ESD-06-900013813. 🗈 excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the opening of the financial proposals

The TransCo now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOts) from potential bidders to apply for aligibility and short listing for Science Contract for the Parcellary Survey, Relocation and Subdivision Survey of the Affected Main/Sub-lots of Kirahon - Maramag 230 kV Transmission Line Project, Interested consultants must submit their LOIs on or before altay 14, 2005 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the address below and secure the Eligibility Documents therefrom by paying the nonrelandable fee of Php500.00 Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pessited" basis. The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shell be on the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents. May 15, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. at the address below. Only those that ere short listed will be entitled to submit bids

The BAC shall draw up the short list of consultants from those who have submitted LOVs and have been determined as sligible both in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184) and its implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A). The criteria and rating system for short listing

Applicable Experience of the Firm Qualification of Personnel to be (a) Assigned to the Job Current Workload Relative to Capacity and

Equipment Capability The bloden's who shall meet the minimum score of 70 points shall be included in the short list, provided that the bidden's meets the required minimum requirement/s in any of the above criteria. Bidden's who fall to meet the minimum requirements in any of the above criteria wat get a zero (0) point on the said criterie and said bidder/s shall be automatically

4 LObs must be delivered by hand, through mail, or faceintie to the address below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on or before May 14, 2006.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, and is restricted, unless otherwise stated to Filipino citizens or organizations with at least sixty percent (80%) interest belonging to chixens of the Philippines. In accordance with IRR-A of R.A. 9164, only bids from short fisted consultants will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in the Eligibility Cocuments. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184 the contract will only be averaged to the Highant Rated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification The PROCLIRING ENTITY shall evaluate bids using the Quality-Cost Based Evaluation/Selection (QCBE/QCBS) procedure. The PROCURING ENTITY shall indicate the weights to be allocated for the Technical and Financial Proposals. The criteria and rating system for the evaluation of bide shall be provided in the instructions to Bidders.

interested consultants may obtain further mformation from TransCo at the address given below from \$:00 s.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The contract shall be completed within one hundred eighty (188) sales

days from the dele of acceptance of Purchase Order TransCo reserves the right to reject any and all bids, sense the bidding process or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any Rability to the affected bidder or bidders.

National Transmission Corporation, Head Office Region Mr OSCAR M CAMERINO MMD Office, G/F TransCo Main Bidg. Power Cepter, Quezon Ave. corner BIR Reed, **Dillman, Queron City** Tel. Ho.: (832) 981-2206 / Fan No. (832) 922-8432 Weballs: www.transco.ph

> (Spd.) OSCAR M. CAMERINO **BAC Chairman**

LIVING IN A POSH SUBDIVISION doesn't guarantee that one will enjoy a pest-free existence in that environment. Lourdes Dosch didn't notice the termites gorging on her 40-year-old house until it was almost too late. One such sign of infestation was the surprisingly weak living room floor, which has resulted in some embarrassing incidents.

"It got so bad already, you'd be afraid to walk on my old wooden floor with high beels," she shares.

Culprits

As one of the original houses in that Makati village, the Dosch residence has had its share of renovation and redesigning. But Lourdes took the problem seriously when the family discovered the culprits to their weakened floor.

Says Lourder: "When we were renovating, we discovered the termites. They were taking out sections of the house. They're insidious, those things. I was afraid they would get to my paintings!"

She discovered that some pesticides, however, were merely stopgaps to this relentless series of attacks. But she worried that these chemicals with sickening residual odors might harm her family and their menagerie of dogs, cats and

"Before, I would get rid of ternutes for a few months with other

means, mostly sprays, and they would appear again," she says. They would be effective at the start, and after a while they wouldn't work anymore. I'd get frustrated again, I was also scared that my pets would be harmed."

Recommended

She looked into an option that some of her friends recommended. T was asking around about Sentricon, and after much contemplation and shopping around, I decided to ger it," Lourdes recounts. They dvertising it in the newspapers. Now, I think it's worth at because after a few months, they were all gone. I promised them new customers, and I got them to try it. It was really effective and it's worth the money.

According to Gladez Bao-Talavera, sales manager of Dow Agro-Sciences, there are six different types of termites in the Philippines, but only one kind was responsible for this particular onslaught. Says Gladez: "The very destructive Coptotermes Vastator or commonly known as 'Philippine milk termite' became Lourdes's problem. When they eat, nothing is left of the wood. From the surface, you might assume that the wood is healthy. But when you knock on them, they're -already hollow because they've been eaten away. Their in-

festation is very rapid. Almost 80 to 90 percent of urban areas are infested by this termite species."

She adds that Sentricon's unique Colony Elimination System effectively basted these termites at a carefully monitored stations. Once termites start feeding in the stations, they will spread the bait to the whole colony. The bait contains a substance that prevents the molting process of termites so they can't grow. In time all termites in the colony will be affected by the bast and die.

Major investment

"It's a major investment, so you have to choose the right applicators, or authorized pest control operators," Gladez explains, "You also have to look at the value of the house. If they're just going to use spraying methods, or they're going to hire someone who's not technically capable of handling new baiting products, then the investment will be wasted. We encourage property owners to look for the Sentricon authorized operators."

Dow AgroSciences, she further explains, is a world-renowned company that has high standards and is therefore very strict with qualified applicators. They have undergone extensive training," she says. "These technicians have regular updates; those who cannot han-

dle Sentricon components won't be able to pass them. Sentricon opera tors have to undergo another process of exams after passing their Pertilizer and Pesticide training. If homeowners want to confirm if the technicians who work on their homes are authorized, then we can present their authorization certifcates."

Accredited

One such accredited technician/sales representative of Vira Pest Inc. is Meivin Sanchez who surveyed the Dosch property three years ago, and discovered consid erable damage at the back of the house and at the front door. "We recommended the Sentricon system because liquid pesticides would just endanger her pets." Mervin discloses. "I explained to Mrs. Dosch the benefits of using Sentricon, and three months after we installed the batting technology. the results were good. During in spections, we noticed that the termites were gradually being elimi nated inside the baits, and their movements have nonceably slowed down. The active ingreds ents killed them all. After one year, the contract was renewed for the future protection and monitoring of the property." Vira Pest (tel. 728 3174, 834-2494 and 728-4545) is Sentricon authorized operator.

Lovely Paris inspires new South Forbes project

PARIS, MANY PEOPLE SAY, IS THE most romantic city in the world. The sweet aroma of love permeates the whole city. A sparkling glass of red wine caps lunch with a beloved. A candlelight dinner is best reserved at the glitzy Ritz. And of course, a passionate kiss can be exchanged at the top of the Eiffel Tower amid the glittering lights of Paris' enchanting nightscape.

The romantic atmosphere of Paris will soon be experienced here in the country with the launch of South Forbes Golf City's newest project, Châteaux de Paris. Said Cathay Land president Jeffrey Ng: "Our newest innovative project at South Forbes will feature homes inspired by the grandeur of the lovely city of Paris. Sprawling gardens will be reminiscent of Paris' landscaped purits and flowers from all colors of the spectrum."

Strong dramatic approach Residents enter Châteaux de Paris through a main gate that pro-

vides a strong dramatic approach. Cobblestone paving, formal rows of trees, and a feature wall along the approach immediately bring about the feeling of a French-inspired development. A fountain at the middle of the gate and abundant lighting at night to accentuate the property are other French design concepts that have been incorporated in the plans.

Three model chareaus-Chambord, Fontainebleau and Chantilby-all named after famous royal chateaus in Paris, will make homebuyers appreciate and fall in love with all things French. Chambord will feature interlors reminiscent of traditional Parislan elements such drawings. intricate Pontainebleau will have modern

furnishings, thus featuring straight lines, while Chantilly will have a contemporary style with ultra sleek furnishings like those of French ingénue Philippe Starck. Meanwhile, the landscaping for

the entire Châteaux de Paris rein-

terprets 18th century French garden design traditions during the reign of King Henry XIV. Gardens during his time were often characterized by grandeut, built to impress and showcase a high degree of wealth and power-very much something to be desired even to

As such, this South Forbes project

features French aliée or alleys bordered by trees or clipped hedges. Allees intersect in acute angles and if viewed from above resemble a goose-foot. Along with the canals and reflecting pools, they not only lend a strong visual effect but also enable residents easy access to the nearest pocket park or even the clubhouse for a lovely time with family and friends.

Masterpiece

Of course, the masterpiece of Châteaux de Paris is the main clubhouse. It seems to float in a most or reflecting pool, as inspired by the huge body of water that protects a

French castle. It features granute doors, large arched windows, and flowers rich in color Formal gath enings can be scheduled at the main ballroom area with the accompaniment of delightful music from a grand piano, whereas casu al affairs can be booked at the while and children's pool areas.

With every lot investment at Châteaux de Pans, mom and dad at so get a free membership to the 18 hole South Forbes Golf Club de signed by the International Management Group (IMG). South Porbes' affiliation with the exclusive golf club of IMG SportsClub gives the couple exclusive travel perks play and relaxation discounts in 42 top golf courses worldwide.

To fall in love all over again but this time with the exquaste Châteaux de Paris -- it is best to set an enchanting date at South Porbes, strategically located in Metro Sta. Rosa, by simply calling 635-8108 or 636-4643 or visiting www.southforbes.com



ERTY

Brittany rises to the occasion with Deux Pointe

NOTHING COULD POSSIBLY COMPARE TO the feeling of bliss that takes hold of one's mind when looking out from up above to the most breathtaking scene of the greenest landscape. With the warmth of early morning sunshine, a light breeze blowing and the fresh pine scent to perfume the air, it is not difficult to believe that this is how nature was meant to be viewed.

Rising majestically above the scenic Tagaytay is a property that offers a spectacle for the whole family to enjoy, take a breather from the hustle and bustle of city living, and relax and just be a loving family. Deux Pointe, the most recent offering of maverick real estate developer Brittany Corp., will rise within the CrossWinds development. It draws inspiration from the Swiss Alps and all the luxury that the true alpine fantasy entails.

"Brittany Corp.'s reputation as a maverick masterplanner is affirmed once more in Deux Pointe at CrossWinds. The vacation homes in this property are uniquely designed to meet the punnacle of sophistication and high-end living. This is where people at the top can find their second home," explained Brittany president Jing Serrano.

The launch of Deux Pointe on April 23 was one charming Swiss affair. Clad in traditional Swiss ensemble, the CrossWinds Deux Pointe family extended their warm Alpine hospitality to guests atop Deux Pointe peak. From there, everyone gathered to witness the unveiling of the Deux Pointe scale models and the ceremomal ringing of the Deux Pointe bell led by Brittany officers. The sound of the toiling bell echoed across the CrossWinds expanse, signaling that Deux Pointe is officially on sale.

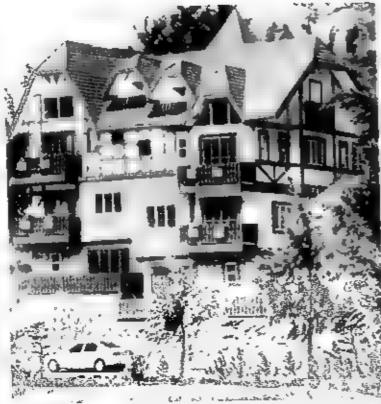
First look

With the unveiling of Deux Pointe's scale models Gran Duetto and Duetto Primo, guests got a first look of the quaint Swiss-inspired properties their family could enjoy at Deux Pointe. Adding a highland spirit to the affair is the country's only licensed bagpiper Roy Espiritu. His bagpipe's deep bellowing melodies, the fresh pine-scented breeze and the stunning hilltop scenery made for an unforgettable Alpine-inspired experience only Brittany can deliver

As part of the 70-hectare masterplanned community of CrossWinds, Deux Pointe takes the success of Brittany's Swiss Quadrille development, literally, to a higher level-responding to the demand for a mountainside enclave for families needing a larger space An exclusive development of 28 three- to four-story duetto units, Deux Pointe is the only high peak property still available in Tagay-

Dream weekend home

Deux Pointe offers prospective buyers a choice of a 208-sq-m three-bedroom unit or a 225-sq-m four-bedroom unit. Both units boast of a loft on the top floor that can be converted into an additional bedroom, or simply finish and hand-carved patterns on the railing



DEUX Pointe at CrossWinds—Your own Swiss chalet amid the pines and mountain mist, an hour and a half from Manila.

Deux

Pointe is

the only

high peak

property

Tagaytay

still

for one to enjoy the towering vistas. Each unit has a guest bedroom situated on the ground floor and a double carport.

"Deux Pointe, I really believe, is the dream weekend home. Built on a higher level, its homeowner can definitely enjoy a greater degree of privacy. You're surrounded with the natural beauty of Tagaytay. And of course, the house itself is especially crafted by Brittany Corp. to reflect your highly discriminating raste," Serrano said.

"It is truly the perfect addition to the Cross-Winds development. Finding new ways for the residents to have a better vantage point of the scenery motivated us to push the Swiss inspiration to greater heights," she added.

Swiss architecture

CrossWinds takes inspiration from Swiss architecture. Elements such as overhanging eaves, wood patterns, wide balconies all set against a lush green landscape provide a haven where one can truly feel at home away

Various design details were employed to ensure an inviting and comfortable atmosphere including a steeply-pitched, gable roof with varying roof lines. The dark-stained wood trims provide contrast to the srucco walls in varying colors to brighten the rooms. French windows with planter boxes ensure that the house is flooded with sunshine and fresh air. The ceramic tiles and natural stone on the porch and balcony with stained wood

It is the natural pine scent, however, that greets the guests and creates the ambience for this incredible Swiss getaway. The sweet scent is the result of thousands of pine trees planted by Brittany within the property.

Deux Pointe properties range from 98 to 107 sq m in lot sizes with floor areas ranging from 208 to 225 sq m. Packages range from P11.5 to P12.6 million. For inquiries and property previews, please call 850-2868 and 850-3084, or visit www.brittany.com.ph.







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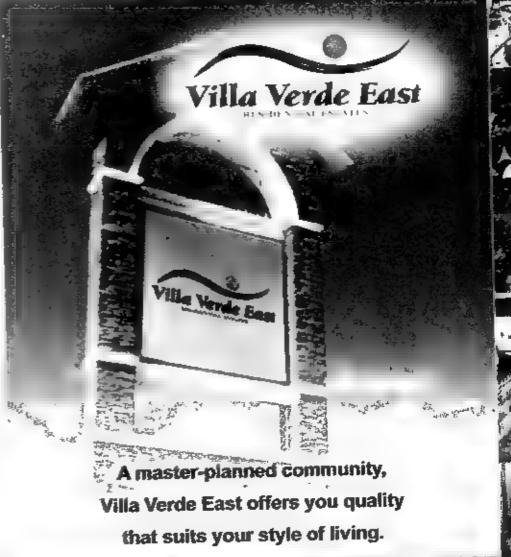
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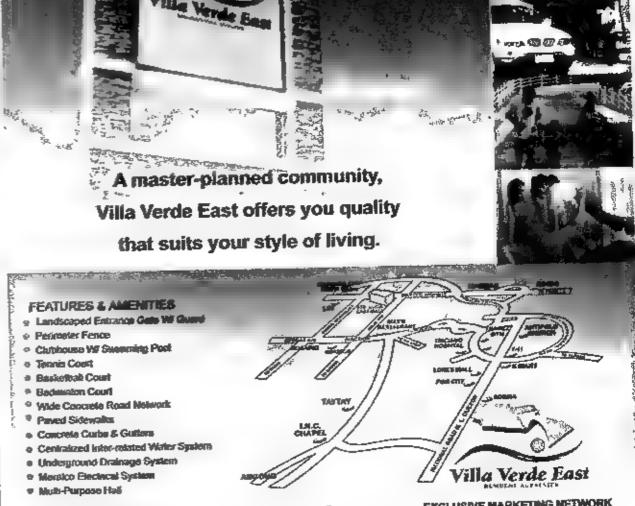
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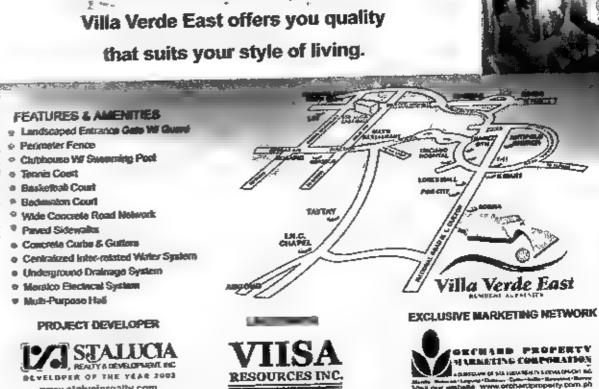
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INVITATION TO SUBMIT OFFERS Offered for Sale on a per site and on an "as-is, where-is" basis, are 19 residential lots with site nos. 1 18 formerly belonging to the Peninsula Development Bank (PENBANK) and stor no. 19 formerly belonging to interfaced Chemicals, Inc. (IC.) as follows: A. PENINSULA DEVELOPMENT SANK Barangay Mapagong, Pagbilao, Quezon Indicative Ares. Price/sq.m. TCT No. Lot No Site P716,400.00 P200.00 Lot-1147-A 3,582 7 201847 "Site 1 is a residential lot with a net useable area of 3,582 sq.m. This lat is with informal settlers. The TCT is still registered in the name of Rosita Uy, the Certificate of Sale in favor of PND was registered with the Lucena City Register of Deeds on 11 April 2002 Barangay Bukal, Pagbilao, Quezon (Peninsula Homes Subdivision) Indicative Price/sq.m Lot No Price (sq.m.) No. 87 300.00 **9.450.00** Lot 3 T-390065 85,200.00 Lot 6 142 600 00 T 390068 600 00 60,000,00 Lot 4 100 T 390067 57,600 00 96 600 00 T: 390066 61 200.00 600.00 102 Lot T 390069 36,900 00 450.00 T- 390086 LDC-4 40,500.00 300 00 135 T 39006Z 150.00 22,400 00 T 390063 300,00 7 390064 Barangay Bukal, Pagbilao, Quebon (Intertown Homes Subdivision) Indicative Price/sq.m. Area Lot No. Site Price (50. m.) 162 No. P 121,500.00 750.00 Lot-12, Bit. 9 750,00 12 Lot 18, 8kk 10 T-390092 150,150 00 Bik. 11 231 T-390091 90,000.00 Lot 7 819 8 600 00 T 390090 90,000.00 600 00 150 Lot 8, Blk 390100 600,00 90,000 00 150 Lot-15, Blk 8 97,500.00 650,00 Lot 11, 8lk 9 T-390102 Barangay Panaon, Linisan, Quezon Indicative Price/sq.m. Area Lot No. TCT No. (sq. m.) 830 No. 18** P166,000,00 T-390096 .Ωt-1-β-2 Ste 18 is with informal settlers. B, INTERLAND CHEMICALS, INC. Barangay Balubad, Atlmonan, Quezon indicative Price/sq.m. Area Site

Parcel 7, Lot-3

Floor, PMO Conference Room, HDMC Building, 104 Gambos St., Legaspi Village, Malatti City.

Offers will be received, operand and tabulated in the presence of offerors on 17 May 2006, at 3:00 p.m., 6th

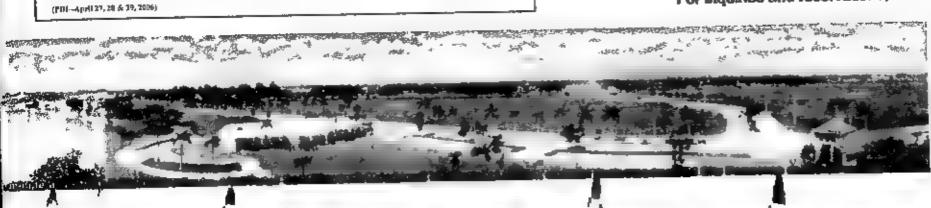
interested parties may request for duly authenticated copies of the Offer For Sale Documents for a nominal

For more information, please call Mr. John DE Baldemor of the PhiO Marketing Department at 817-6331 or

fee of P500.00 from the PMO Marketing Office, 5th Floor, 104 Gambon St., Legispi Village, Makatt City.

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PROPERTY

RP's next tourist destination now in Bicol

By Ephraim Aguilar PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

ACACAY, ALBAY—SMOOTHILY rising as the next tourist destinanon in the country is the Misibus Resorts, Estates and Spa, a 20-hectare prime commercial and residential estutes complex pestled in an island facing the Pacific.

The resort complex has a wide stretch of fine white sand and a scenic view of the Sula Channel—a salty river in a lake's clothing that links the Albay Gulf and the Pacific Ocean.

The Misibis Resorts, Estates and Sparecently launched the Amalfi Condoteis.

The project, a billion-peso amenity, is one of the highlights of the resort development of Misibis, a barangay in the Cagraray island here, which began two

"Amalfi" is an Italian word which means "a place that offers a beautiful view of the sea.

And very true to its name, the Amalfi Condotels—a hotel and condominium combined, the first of its kind in Albay-offers a soothing view of a clean, world-class beach in Cagraray.

The Amalfi is founded on the concept of bringing people to a relaxed lifestyle,

from the burly-burly of the city life to a unobstructed view of the ocean. serene living headed out of town, where All materials used in the cm one can experience fresh breezes and a picturesque panorama everywhere one turns—displaying the splendor of nature.

This place, one can suitably call a second home, is about 11-hour drive from Manila or a 45-minute plane trip and about an hour-and-a-half drive from the Legazpi City Airport.

Last April 9 was the groundbreaking and first concrete-filling and unveiling of the miniature perspective or diorama of

The Ama.fi is a nine-structure "condotel" composed of seven blocks of three- to six-story condominums and two hotels worth at least P1.1 billion.

Architectural design

Every room will be flexible to the taste and creativity of the resident since it has no permanent divisions. With a divider or two, the resident can freely determine space allotment and design for the studiotype interiors.

Amalfi's architectural design is said to beautifully blend with the natural land-

Avoiding the splash of bright colors, RMJM Philippines, the architectural company handling Amaifi, will be careful to use only soothing tones that will maintain the tranquil mood.

Made different from the common, big city skylines, the structure will have no precise rectangular shapes from the top of the building to the bottom.

The L-type and V-type design of the condomniums will stand harmoniously with the slopes of this seaside property and will help achieve a restful ambiance and an

All materials used in the construction of the "condotels" are meant to complement the splendid outdoors and to maintain the natural atmosphere of the resort. Such materials are the slate walls, ceramic tiles, steel railings, natural tones and wooden structures.

Motor vehicles will be limited to designated areas only to minimize noise and pollution in the complex. Instead, Amalfi will be accessible via golf carts.

Strongest points

Cagraray island can be a perfect hub of tourism since it is nearest to the region's entry points and is surrounded by seven other wonders of ecotourism in Bicol. Among these are Mayon Volcano, the world's most perfect cone-shaped volcano, the butanding, the largest and one of the most gentle fishes in the world also known as the whale shark and lurking at the waters of Donsol town in Sorsogon, and the Sula Channel, the site where the Spaniards used to hide their galleons during typhoon and which until now is a strategic hiding place of vessels during tropical storms.

Others are the Manta Rays, the world's fifth largest fish, which can be found in between the waters of Ticao Island in Mashate and Bulan town in Sorsogon; the Boiling Lake, which is a naturally heated water from beneath the earth, the underground river, consisting kilometers of stalactite and stalagmite formations; and the Vera Palls, located on a secluded nook of Mr. Mayon, about 122 meters above sea level, a natural paradise of forest and dear-cascading waters.

All these made Misibis Land Inc. president and chief executive officer Elizalde "Zaldy" Co confident to invest a tremen-

dous amount of money in Cagraray.

Tourism economic zone

Co and Philippine Economic Zone Authority Director Lilla de Lima signed a memorandum of agreement on March 3 certifying Misibis as a tourism economic

This certificate of registration has granted Misibis exemption from import duties and taxes on imported machinery and equipment and income tax bolidays for four years, and later, exemption from national and local taxes, except real prop-erty taxes on the land owned by the devel-

Earlier, President Macapagal-Arroyo, through Proclamation 998 signed last Peb. 14, designated parcels of land totaling an area of 196,743 square meters for use by Misibis as a special economic zone.

Government support

In a speech during the Amalfi launch, Rep. Joey Salceda of the third district of Albay pledged his support to what he called a "history-maker" project.

As a way of showing his support to Bi-

col murism. Salceda said he had initiated, as head of the House committee on appropriations, the P150-million land acquisition at Barangay Alobo in Daraga town where the Southern Luzon International Airport will be built. It is expected to improve the accessibility of tourist destina-

He added that a P270-million bridge connecting Sula and Misibia will be built not thus year but very soon.

Albay Gov. Pernando Gonzalez said the government had invested a large amount of money in the roads and infrastructure to help develop and promote Misibis as a tourist spot.

In her visit to the beaches here in May last year, President Arroyo said it was one of her agenda to make Bicol one of the popular tourism destinations in the country after Boracay in Aklan, for the region has potentials to boost of economic tourism zones.

Good returns

Gonzalez said the local government expects significant investments in Misibis. He believes that its development is a "sure-win" venture.

"It will open the doors to other investments. And it will help the province in employment generation," the governor

Currently, at least 100 residents of the Cagraray community have been employed by the resort development project, according to Vitchie Ubaldo, operations manager of the Misibis Resort, Estates

and Spa. In a press conference, Co said they expect 7,000 tourists every month. But they will be operational yet next summer when the coffee shops and the initial phases of the condoreis have been completed.

By 2010, he said, Misibis will be fully operational.

Added amenities

in its soft opening by April 2007, other projected features of the resort are a cozy entry lounge and coffee shop, poolside sunken bar, restaurant and bar, free-form infinity pool and deck, spa and health clinic, 50 condotels, souvenir shop, recreational facilities and equipment, business center, and additional 15-room villas

By April 2008 there will be additional 50 condutels, chapel, heacopter rides, basketball court, function rooms, convention hall, tennis court and lap pool.

By April 2009, there will be additional 25 condotels.

And from 2010-2015 there will be an alistrip, golf course, farm lots, flora and fauna collection, fishing lagoon, outdoor amphitheater, cultural heritage center and museum, bowling lanes, driving range, forest park and trail, campsite, canopy walk, equestrian ranch, and marina

and yacht basin.



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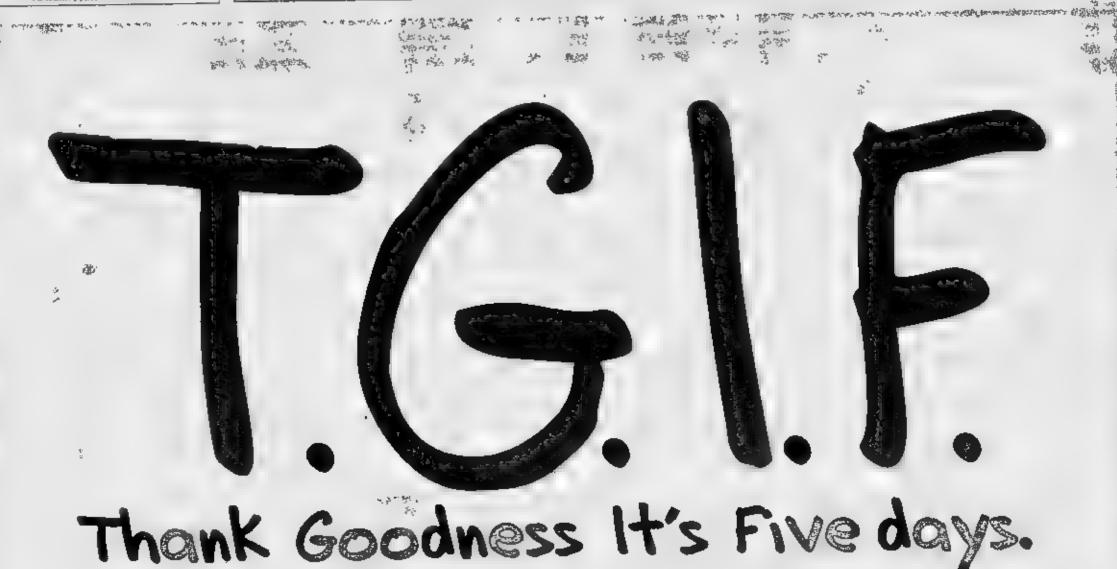
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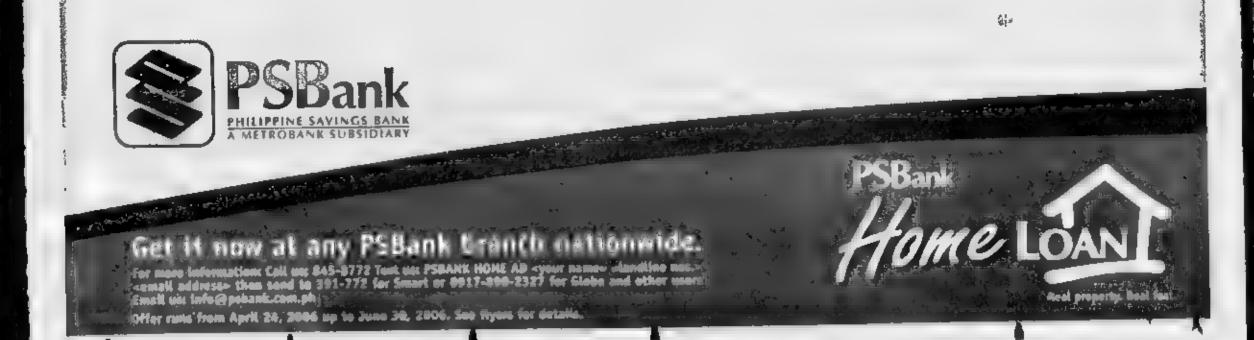
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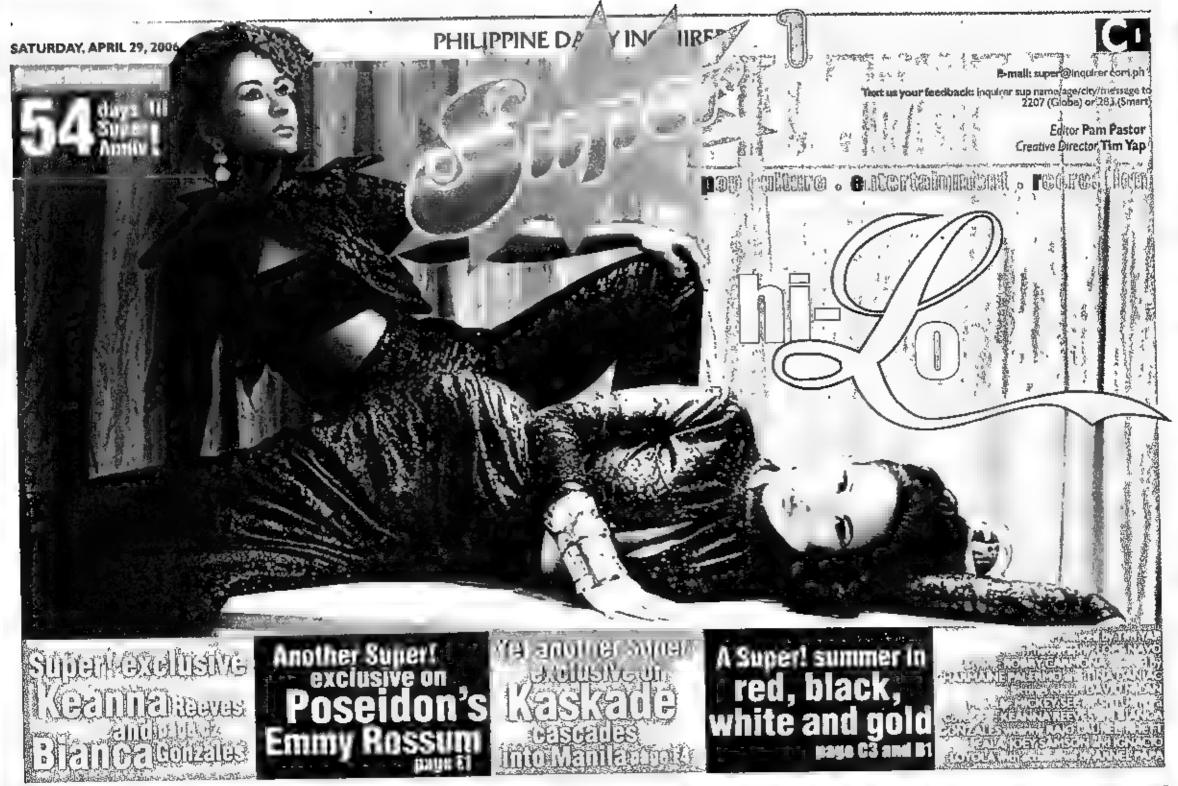
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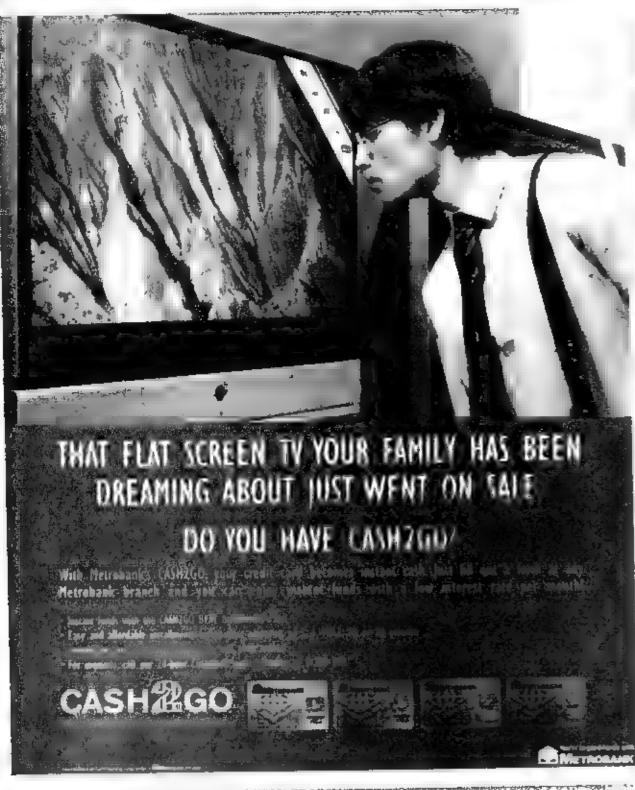
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Signal Carlo Second of the Contraction of the Contr



they've lived with each other 24 hours for 50 plus days at the Big Brother house, "celebrity edition" let

Photography: LOPE NAVO

MAINE PALERMO and TINA DANIA

Sittings editor: DAVID MILAN Makeup: MICKEY SEE for Shu Uemur

with accessories by ARNEL PAP!

us not forget. "I wanna greet my new sosyal friends," Keanna would jokingly say on nationwide TV, after meeting the fashion and party folks at Embassy. For this Supert photo shoot in fact, people volunteered to be part of it just to meet Keanna. Designers even rushed clothes that would fit Keanna's more than ample assets just to make it in time for the pictorial. Bianca arrived a bit late, because she came from a shoot for yet another cover of a magazine.

I have witnessed the growth of Bianca as an artist and am really proud of what she has accomplished. Starting out as a commercial model, she has slowly but surely clambed the show biz ladder, bit by bit, even working under the think rank for ABS-CBN top man Enrico Santos before getting her show biz breaks. She is also a recipient of an I Am Super Award for her work in championing the youth voice in her show "Y Speak." We spoke in private right before photographer Lope Navo started his La Chapelle-esque shoot,

She became teary eyed as she recailed her moments inside the House, and she told me that she remains "hopeful" that things between her and her boyfriend, the director slash Super' contributor Lino Cayetano gets fixed after all the brouhaha that the show has caused 'We really didn t reasize that the whole wond was watching. Once inside, you sort of forger the magnitude," was how Bianca described her Big

Brother experience "It raught me how to be more real as a person added Keanna When lasked her f she was 100 percent real, once again she pointed to her wo best friends "Well, these two are, 100 percen real rea silicone," she answered, without patting a fake eye sh. Now who said show biz folks are all

plast c?

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is our guesterylist for this ex-

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I had met Keanna the other night

through her bosom pun intended)

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Well how can bey not have its vien

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Super! Summer sizzlers Red, black and W

By Tim Yap

"TARTE NELLO SPORT"-THE FTALIANS really have a way of doing everything al dente. Polo season just went by, and Fila made sure that it didn't just go by unnoticed. Cris Albert and hubby Butch, the First Couple behind Fila in the Philippines made sure to transform the Manila Polo Club into one big black and white ball, all in the name of the tradition that they have started three years back since they launched the Donita Rose line at the same venue.

Now with Bianca Araneta as endorser, they continue to hold the torch to uplift the sport that elite sport which Ifrigo Zobel and Bobby Aguirre are well known all over the world for "We need to promote this sport more to the next generation of polo players," Butch told me while we were watching the beautiful turn out of people at the Polo field. "It just keeps getting better every year," he said as we observed his wife Cris going around, being the consummate society hostess that she is, wearing Fila's latest collection while making sure the crowd was aptly entertained and served wel.

I shared the mic with Bianca as we talked about the sports brand's latest collection of tops and bottoms, shoes and new Filativa line-sportswear lifted to an exciting new reve.. Right before this was a yoga exhibition led by Maritoni Tordesillas, Antonio Arando, Lianna Romulo, Caroane Kila, Becky De Villa and Connie Ponce

By sunset, the White Team emerged as win ner, with Vince Bitong happiny clutching the

grant trophy (to wifey Ana's delight) and party peeps enjoying the DJ music that played on the polo field that celebrated Fila's coming of age—the marriage of art and sport.

Oh, did I tell you that until April 30, it's 50 percent off on shoes at all Fila boutsques?

Red and rebellious Raspberri

Rebels with their own causes flocked to the Fort where a giant red structure was set up for just one reason-to introduce Absolut's latest variant Raspberri. This vast party compound had private rooms, a main floor and various chambers that indulged the reveler with the newest rouge concoction to hit our shores, a red sea blend of wild and ripe berries that were tipe for the sipping.

Absolut-ly stunning Bianca Valerio led guests into the first chamber where artist David Swam transformed Absolut bottles into bumblebees, which he hung on the ceiling. Otto Hernandez did on-the-spot graffitt art on a giant Absolut bottle while Ed Amel and the Air dancers did some aerial calisthenics before the Dawn took over and unveiled Absolut Raspberri in a rare musical fusion of rock, ethnic and electronica-kildos to that!

This Raspberri variant is made from all natural ingredients and without any added sweetener. "This is not a shy and sweet product, it is a rebel who is as intense in its taste and scent as in its red and grey packaging," explained Bengt Baron, V&S Absolut Spirits head.

This page features the red and rebellious. Go ahead, have a sip.



FILA WINNERS' CIRCLE Ana and Vince **Bitong with Butch Albert**

Henri Calayag and Fila

first lady Cris Albert



FILA GANG, Greggy Araneta, Charlie Carmona and Irene Marcos-Araneta



HOSTING CHORES.

Bianca Araneta and me

PMAP PALS, Valerie FILA DUO Rina de los Santos and Albert and Rissa Samson Chase Timio



POLO SCION. Natalia Zobeł



LIFESTYLE ASIA'S A-LIST









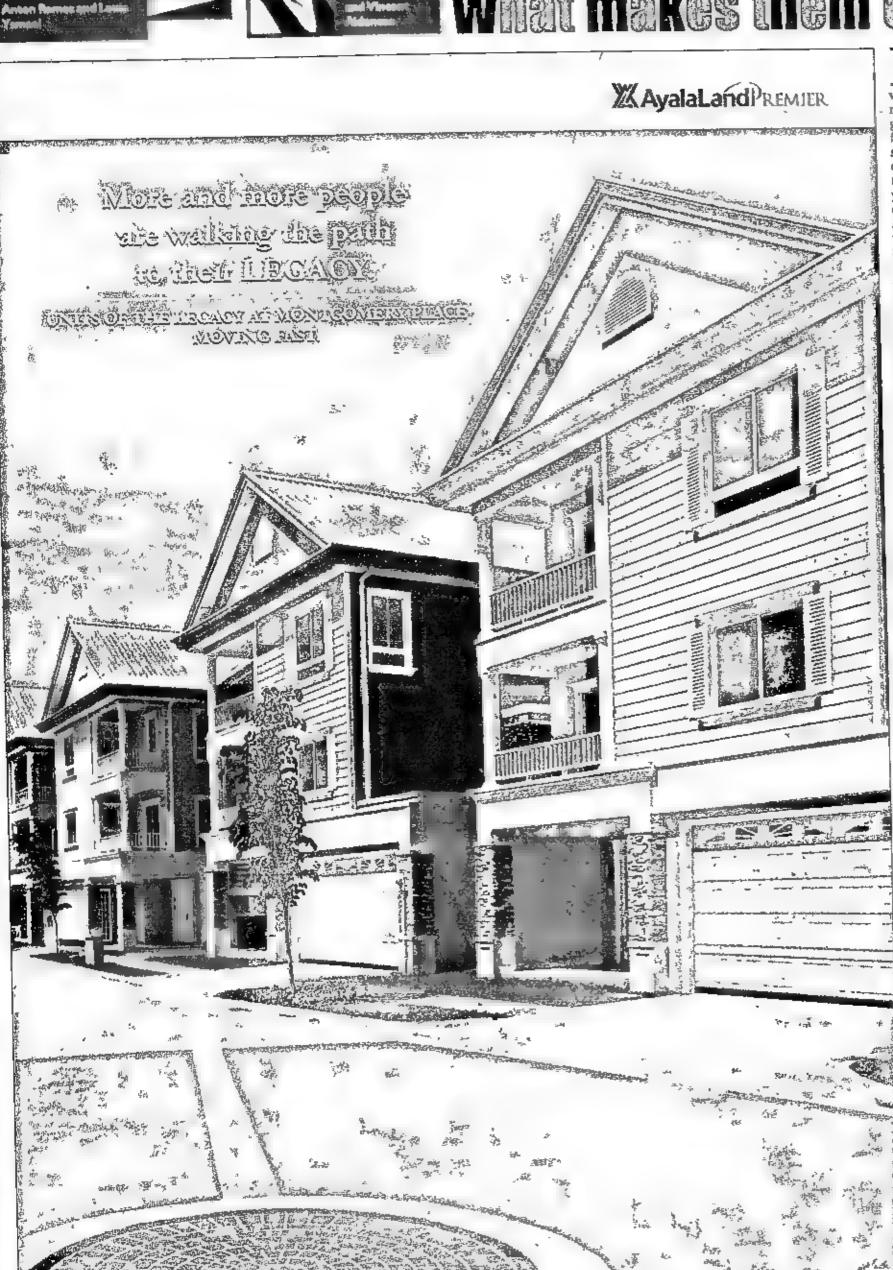








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where the peacefulness within belies its closeness to everything you need. It's the perfect place for your children, and your children's children, to grow. Only units in Tranche 2 and 3 are still open for those who seek this land of exclusivity. Soon, it will be a full thriving community. Make sure you're a part of it.

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hat-meaning available, needless to say, talented and extraordinarily blessed. Nuvo Bar in Greenbelt 2 was filled with the met-ros' blingsters as Lifestyle Asia hosted one great party for it's annual Eligibles List. Overflowing Rene Barbier, Barcino Wines and Ab-solut Vocka filled guests as they partied to club music mixed by DJ Anton Ramos. Amidst the backdrop was an presentation of this year's eligibles, which include hot young talents of today such as Borgy Manotoc, Alexis Alunan, Heart Evangelista, Chichi Atienza as well as businessmen like Paolo Cabalfin and Sarangani Gov. Miguel Dominguez. Athough not all of them were truly avail-

able as their partners served as arm candy to make sure nobody else could grab them—fair

Other "Eligibles" on site include Tessa Dragon, Manika Nubla Yujurco, Miguel Antonio Aranaz, Xavier Dominguez, Nicole Jacin-to, Angel See, Karina Mahbubam, and Ian King, who is now oh so in love with the sultry

supermodel Joey Mead, were all present.

Watch out as these young minds make waves in the coming year! Three cheers for mentocracy—now that's Super!

The Most Eligible 2006 is featured in the latest issue of Lifestyle Asia magazine, now available in bookstores and newsstands nationwider Are you on this year's list?













on all May on MTV Pilipinasi

was a musical orgy you have ta see.

Leon, Pope Dioloso, Chuck Isidro



L' oreal Color Trophy 2006

THE FOREAL COLOR TROPHY IS now internationally recognized as one of the most exciting competitions in hairdressing today. Held in 29 countries around the world, it gives an amazing platform for hairdressers to express their creativity and uplift the industry on global scale. Today, it is a spectacular opportunity to display Filipino talent.

Now on its 6th year in the Philippines, the Eoreal Color Trophy is much anticipated in the hairdressing calendar. Watch out for the photo exhibit on May 10 to 14 in Glorietta (fronting Swatch and Greyhound).

The gala night will be on May 15 at the Growne Plaza Hotel

Levi's 501 reveals camvas of truths

N STAYING TRUE TO THE iconic jean's heritage of originality and authenticity, Levi's reveals its latest 5010 campaign that is a canvas of intimate truths about the 501® wearer and the SO1® jean.

"This latest 501@ Stay True campaign is all about keeping it real and authentic. It is about accepting who you really are and telling the world the intimate truth that makes you, you." says Ronnie Celestial, Levi's Brand Leader.

The message of the campaign is thought provoking, personal and empowering. Examples of tagimes: "I Am Not My Pather's Second Chance"; "You Like To Give Advice. I Like To Ignore It."; and You'll Never Really Know Me Until You Know What Turns Me On."

The campaign also celebrates the heritage of the brand that's captured in the new 501@ Customized Jean designed specially to mark 501 Day.

Levi's designers have artfully customized the jean to achieve a well-worn look combining premium finishing, fabric and detailing. There's also a limited edition Levi's 501 Customized Jean with an embroidered label "501@ Limited Edition 2006" and a serial









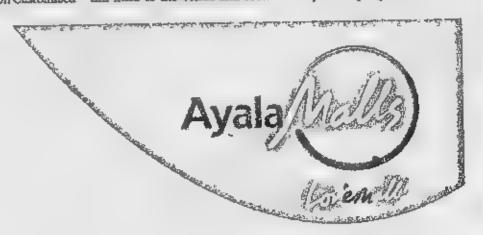
number handwritten in waterproof ink runs along the inside of the waist. For the first time ever, the Levi's@ 501@ Limited Edition Customized Jean will be complemented with a Limited Edition Customized denim jacket for guys, and a Limited Edition Customized

T-shirt for both guys and girls. Levi's commemorates 501®

Day with a two-day concert series on May 5 and 6. On May 5, jive at the Port Plaza with Up Dharma Down, Imago, 6Cyclemind, Pupil, and Urbandub, People in Davao can head to the Venue and rock

with Tabularasa, Mackina, Go Larry Go, and Sugarfree.

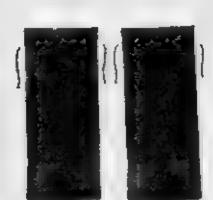
On May 6, Levi's 501 brings Paspitch, Powerspoonz, Smooth Friction, Sheila and the Insects, and Pupil at Offroads Cebu, while SM Baguio comes alive with Menaya and Spongecola.



On Labor Day,



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Michael College, Hardison, Alberta Septimie of Technology (Carbelt), Was Mountains Notel School Charteline, Johnson and Wales University (MAA), an





AS IF YOU AREN'T GLUED TO your TV already, here comes AXN with another series that's sure to keep you captivated.

Supernatural chronicles the adventures of brothers Sam (Jared Paladecki) and Dean (Jensen Acides) as they travel the backroads of America in search of their father who has vanished Their journey leads them to the eerie world of demons, urban legends and folklore. It is up to the two to find their father and face supernatural forces along

The series, which was launched in the US in 2005, will begin airing on May 4, Thursday, at 10 p m.

And to get us all in the mood for the show's premiere, AXN and Super! want to read about your own supernatural experiences Send your true spooky stories to super@inquirer.com.ph (not more than 300 words, please). Don't forget to include your name, age, office/school and contact info. The reader with the best story will win an iPod mini! Deadline of entries is on May 10.





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indic Grooves

B EFORE POP MUSIC TRANSFORMS you into a tasteless fool, slowly case your way into the subyour way into the whole indie groove. it's time to venture beyond the freakishly famihar and explore some rockin' events off the beaten track. And if you arrive surprised (or slightly stupefied) at how raw, organic, and experimental everything is, don't fret. They're still excellent fun, and-best of all-free!

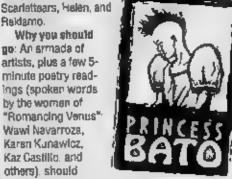


Princess Bato's Sigaw ni Maria Clara When: 7 p.m. tonight at the Espianade, Mail of

Asla, Passy City. Who: 4 Poets, The Dorques, Charry Comfiskes.

Cynthia Alexander, Maliida, Saydle, Narda, Wild Mood Swings, Imago, Up Dharma Down, Drip, Moonstar 88, Cocojam, Isha, The Late Isaber

Reidamo. Why you should go: An armada of artists, plus a few 5minute poetry readings (spoken words by the women of "Romanding Venus" Wawi Navarroza, Karen Kunawicz, Kaz Gastillo, and others), should make for a breezy



femme festival by the bay. Extra points for being a benefit gig of the Correctional Institute for Women.

Indie Pilipinas' Indie Sessions

When, May 7, 6 p.m. at the Marikina Riverbanks Amphitheater, Marikina City.

Who: Kapatid, Kiko Machine, Typecast, Jaepney Joyride, Mano-mano, Hilera, Fuseboxo, Live Tilapia, Beautiful Day, Nityailla, The Dorques, Life, The News, Warthog, Shave, Rediead 65, Porject Def Star, Emmanuel, 23rd Psalm, Tension, and Brought by Blood

Why you should go: A massive "musical rally" to be held simultaneously in Manila, Cebu, Davao, holio, Cagayan de Oro, Tacloban, Dumaquete, Naga, Quezon, Laguna, Lucena, and Dagupan. With music as their medium, the creative forks of underground label Indie Pilipinas showcase a stampede of songs to push for peaceful means.

Other Super! 24/7 events:

April 29, Saturday

Mojofly and Michael Angelo at Esquinita, Cynthia Alexander birthday show at Conspiracy: Freshly Squeezed at Citrus; Twentysomething Saturdays w/ GP Rayes & Stephen Ku at Mezze, Quench w/ OJs Chip de la Calzada & Mac Cunanan at Quisine, Pump Saturdays at JIR's, Fluote at 6 Underground, Dus Scratchmark, Bliss & Shorty at Prince of Jaipur; Campusition Night at Mag:Net Café

April 30, Sunday

Christian Lacrobt: Dialogues at Ayala Museum; Filipinas: .sa Lorenzo exhibit at UP Vargas Museum; Otazo & Otazo exhibit at Galleria Duemita; Visions of Light, Jalme Zobel exhibit at Ayala Museum, Kuhang Marino exhibit at dP Vargas Museum

May I, Monday

2006 Bad Boy Tour W/ Dennis Rooman & NBA Legends at Araneta Coliseum; Ethan band at Temple; I Don't Like Mondays! w/ DJ Ro at Gwel.os Makati: Dawn & Jessie at Merk's Wine Buffel at The Lounge; Jazz Trio at Captain's Bar; Folies de Mwah at Club Mwah, Zion at Esquinita

May 2, Tuesday

Jrbandub at Saguijo; Up Oharma Down at Conspiracy; Saisa Night w/ Saisa Filipinas at Mezze; Kickback Tuesdays at Manila DJ Club, Guarana at Café Havana Greenbelt; Acoustic Night at Temple; Sitar Nights at Bollywood; Spirit of '67 at Captain's Bar, Aretha & the Souled Out Band at Merk's, Rita and Cultured Mlik at Esquinita

May 3, Wednesday

Weekend Wednesdays w/ DJ Boyet Almazan at Strumm's; Discotech w/ DJ Papi Santos at Mezze; DJs Karl Ty & Cao Ocampo at Embassy Cuisine; Funksoul-Jah at Marila OJ Club; Willy Warka's Music Factory w Joffy Cruz at Gwellos Makati; Classic Wednesdays w/ OJ Brit at Government; Acoustic Night at 6Underground; Way Back Wednesdays at Bed; Jazz Night at Magmet Café Katipunan; Noel Cabangon at Conspiracy, Bliss at Esquinita.

May 4, Thursday

Battle of the Bands w/ Mojoffy at Phi Bar; British Council's Europe Month Concert with Antonio Forcione Quartet, Cynthia Alexander & Mon David at Crossroad 77 Center, BBC's HotButteredSoul w/ DJ Mike Constantino at Sake Lab; Gottarfave-House! w/ DJs Mark Jentes & Wendell Garda at Capone's: Fluxore: Whatever Thursdays at Manifa. DJ Club, Supanstar D. Thursdaze at Bed; DJ Badboy Jeff at Temple, Acoustic Jive at Merk's; Pinwheel at Conspiracy, Sittl at Esquinita

May 5, Friday

Decadance w/ Soyel Almazan at Jili's, Calestial w/ OJ Benjo Marquez at Mezze; Fashlon Fridays w/ DJs Karl Ty & GP Rayes at Citrus; HouseBeals at Matt, MyHOUSE at M Café, Soul Shine w/ DJ Marie Garcia at Embassy Culsine; Happy Yummy Fridays w/ DJ Brit at Government; Jive Fridays at Temple; The Jerks at 70s Bistro: Gogo Fridays at Bed; Route 70 at Merk's; DJs Scratchmark, Bliss & Shorty at Prince of Jaiour, Josy Ayala at Conspiracy, MYMP at Esquinita

Schedules may change without prior notice. For more information and a complete listing of events, text 24/7 through your mobile phone and send to 2949 (Globe) and 209 (Smart). Log on to mag24-7, com or pick up your tree copy of 24/7 Noctumal Navigator at bars and restaurants around the city. Submit your schedules before Wednesday to events@mag24-7.com and mag24_7@yahoo.com.

ERFORMING IS SECOND-NATURE TO New Yorker Emmy Rossum, who has appeared in 20 different operas throughout a stage career that started when she was just seven. The 19-year-old actress and singer had undergone extensive training as part of the Children's Chorus of the Metropolitan Opera at Lincoln Center, and it wasn't long before she landed roles in the daytime soap "As the World Turns," acclaimed dramas "Law and Order" and "The Practice," and the original TV movie "The Audrey Hepburn Story."

But perhaps her most noticed performances to date are her turns in prominent big screen projects, having played a variety of imperiled young women in the Clint Eastwood-directed "Mystic River," Roland Emmerich's "The Day Af-

ter Tomorrow" and most recently, Joel Schumacher's adaptation of the musical "Phantom of the Opera." She was able to use her classically trained singing voice in that last film, and her performance earned her critical acclaim and a Golden Globe nomination for Best Lead Actress in a Musical or Comedy.

Rossum, in a recent, exclusive phone interview while in Los Angeles, discussed in detail how she's far from being the typical Hollywood teen queen. She also talked about the rewarding experience of working with Wolfgang Petersen on the

disaster flick "Poseidon," and her exploration of a special, non-film endeavor, among other topics.

How have you kept up with the unusual demands of show business while growing

That's a very good question. It's tough because my life is so unconventional in so many ways. I'm gaining so much in singing and dancing on stage and film, but even if I started my career at a young age, I still feel lucky. I have friends from when I was much younger. I don't party with celebrities, because as a person, that's just not who I am. I have more fun going out with my friends to the supermarket and cooking, and going to the movies with them. My family has normal 9-to-5 jobs, and for them, this is all weird and exciting, but they're very supportive of me, I don't have assistants or personal trainers. I'm a pretty normal person.

You've worked with popular and decisive directors. How valuable is it for you to experience different styles of filmmaking?

It's increasingly valuable. Everyone has a different approach. Clint Eastwood keeps a very calm set, and whispers directions. But of course, there's hustle and bustle in filming "Phantom" and "Poseidon," a lot of yelling and orchestration. But Wolfgang Petersen is probably the sweetest, kindest director I worked for. In a set like that, he keeps a balance. And I knew that there was gonna be a lot of water this time, so I worked closely with it.

How exactly did you prepare for your role in "Poseidon," and how challenging was it?

I play Jennifer, the sweet, soft, intelligent type; she's really feisty and sexy. I regularly visit the Museum of TV and Radio in New York. It's a great resource of mine. In "Poseidon," it's such a difficult thing to play someone who's experiencing a disaster. I didn't know how to play the right level because I've never encountered a tsunami or a flood, but when I listened to a tape of a girl who called during the 9/11 attacks, 1 understood and knew how to play it.

You've worked opposite Jake Gyllenhaal and Gerard Butler before. Who plays your love interest this time?

Mike Vogel is a very handsome, wonderful blond guy. He's so handsome, so it's very easy to kiss him!

How friendly an atmosphere was the "Poseidon" set?

I became friends with Mike, Josh Lucas and Kurt Russell, who plays my dad. It's an awesome experience. When you spend five and a half months shooting it, you see each other in the most revealing light, Kurt and Richard Dreyfuss kept us laughing. It was fun, even if we had 14 hours straight of shooting, and sometimes we had to spend up to six hours underwater. We had scuba tanks, and between takes, it was so much fun. I mean, I was taught to scuba dive and it's not a blue screen. There are moments when actors do their own stunts, so it's great.

How has starring in Hollywood movies affected you as an actress?

When I was younger, I wanted to be an opera

a surprise. I still live in New York. I still have the same friends. My work is not really a celebritydriven thing for me, because I really do it for the acting. I don't really strive to be famous, I want to be able to give truth to my roles.

How important is it for you to portray diverse characters?

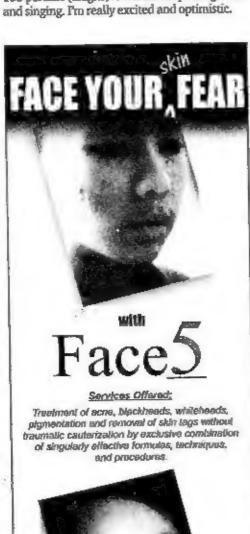
I don't pick the same roles, actually, "Phantom of the Opera" was a period piece; I played a vulnerable girl with emotional baggage. Now I play someone different, a contemporary wontan. I'm very choosy. I've turned down roles before. I only do parts that touch me and are entertaining and meaningful. I want it to be worth the viewer's \$10. That's how much a movie is in America, and it's a lot. I only tell people to watch it if it's worth their \$10.

You're currently working on your debut album. Please describe your music.

It's under Geffen Records, and it's coming out next year. I'm writing the lyrics. A lot of it is self-expression and it's very fulfilling. It's letting my fans in on who I am and it's an opportunity for me to be really creative. I'm a soprano but I have a very big range. I think the sound that I'm going for is not traditional Britney Spears pop music at all. I wanna bring something new to it. My influences are David Gray and Sarah McLachlan, so it has a much edgier vibe.

What's the most important thing you've learned so far about your work and the business?

The most important thing I learned is that ... (pauses). I don't know. I've never been asked that before. I guess I'm (learning that I'm) my own worst critic and ! push myself too hard. The greatest advice mat Jake Gylenhaal gave me was to get a mentor. And one of my co-stars in "Mystic River," Marcia Gay Harden, became that because none of my family really is a part of this. I admire her work and respect her. I can always call her, and she tells me that the smartest people ask for help and seek out information. I'm blessed and I feel incredibly backy! A lot of success I've had is because I gave 150 percent into what I do. Yes, 150 percent (laughs). I wanna keep doing films



Face 5, EDSA Control, MRT platform, 2nd level, Stati PN 4

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MARVIN



I'M STARTING TO QUESTION WHETHER I HAVE ALL THE ANSWERS

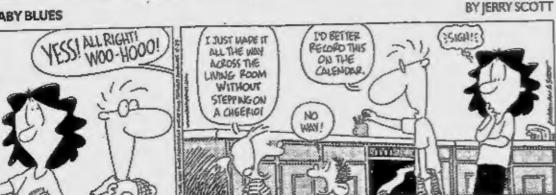
BY TOM ARMSTRONG



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BY P.M. JUNIOR KUNG HIT MAN KA E KAILANGAN MO LANG ELANG HATEINGAN AT TEPOK SILANG LAHAT! HA!HA!HA! PABILI PANGA NG CHOLERA...

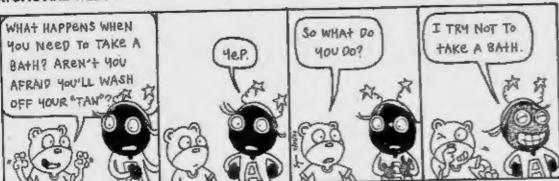
BABY BLUES



DIVINE COMEDY



ATOMO AND WEBOY



BY LYRA GARCELLANO

BY STEVEN PABALINAS

TUKHONE SINNER SIGURISTA NA LAYMINISTER BY JOMIKE TEJIDO **MIKROKOSMOS**

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're bright and mentally agile. Others love your quirky sense of humor. You like foreign places and meeting new people. You avoid boredom at all costs. By age 22, the tempo of your life picks up! It is not until you're 52 that you decide to settle down emotionally and physically. Expect major changes this year (perhaps as significant as in 1997). Birthdate of: Kare Mulgrew, actress; Uma Thurman, actress; Zubin Mehta, conductor

April 19): You feel self-

less toward others today. It's easy to put the needs and wants of others before your own. (This is certainly a noble impulse.)

ARIES (March 21 to

or teacher in such a way that makes it possible for you to help somebody else. Possibly, an authority figure shows you how to do this.

GEMINI (May 21 to

June 20): Today you have some kind of influ-

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You want to help someone. You're willing

to use the resources of others, or even something that you share with someone else, to benefit a third-party who is in need. (This is admirable.)

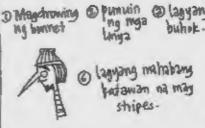
with close friends and partners. Because you feel sympsthetic and kind toward someone now (and vice versa), each of you is willing to listen to the other side.

Scratch -Papert J

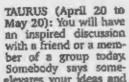
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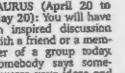
Tuwing Sabado!

Mga Kailangan:









thing that elevates your ideas and your aspirations.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Spiritual, religious and philosophical ideas inspire you! Your appreciation of beauty is heightened. You're at-

tracted to new ideas.



Out in the yord







BY MANIX ABRERA

DAILY CROSSWORD

A RISE **Swipes**

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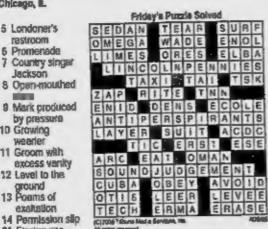
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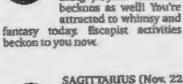
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By Tom Pruce Chicago, E.



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LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): At work you have ideas about how to make things more stylish and attractive. You might also want to help a co-worker Trust your gut instincts today.



SAGITTAIUUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Memories of your childhood might come to mind today. Per-

haps a family member needs to confide in you

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to

Nov. 21): See a movie,

visit a park, do some-

thing playful. Romance



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19); Don't worry if you spend a lot of time daydreaming today. Mercury, the ruler of your thoughts, is linked to fuzzy Neptune, the ruler of dreams and fantasies.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Peb. 18): This is not a good day to try to do de tailed work. Your mind is just not there. In fact, your mind keeps drifting off, thinking about the past or the fu-



And thom;

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Something hururious and perhaps highly fashionable attracts you today. You will buy it if you can afford k. All beautiful things appeal to

KIKO MACHINE



HAY DYUSKUPO! MITAPOS DIN!! GRABE HA -KALBARYO!.. miss Di TONG FORM NYO ASTREAM O SIMA SIM BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

LOVEKNOTS



AY, WALR! DA BUTAS CODE NA ANG TAWAG THAN!

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

TULDOK

WALLY, LASING NO YOTA AKO, DOLDNO NO and tingin 40 4040! PHIKE





Beaches and Basslines

West Coastin'

For some reason, my buddies and I love taking your music to the beach, as a soundtrack for sunset cocktails, iPod breaks, or whatnot. Your sound is uplifting, melodic, and distinctly West Coast, that's why. How did that type of sound evolve?

I think your environment affects your creative state of mind. I think being in San Francisco and living there really influenced me to write and produce music like that.

, Did you meet all the people who did the vocals on your tracks in San Francisco? Or do you meet them along the way?

I meet them all over the place. Actually i found a guy on MySpace and I just asked him to sing on one of my next songs. Somebody sent me his link and I liked his voice. So Pm constantly looking for people to work with.

And collaborate with. Yeah! All the time. That's always something that's on my mind. While I'm on the road, I get a lot of demos. So sometimes I find

Soul and sunshine

people that way.

How do you translate the positive energy when you're producing a track? Do you think of the people in the club?

You write and produce what you are. My music's a reflection of the person I am. I don't think it's one thing in particular that inspires me to make uplifting music. I have an outlook with a lot of sunshine, you know.

Yeah, I get you. There's dark house, then

there's stuff you play at 2 in the morning when everyone's high. There's also trendy French, Latin, and Italian house. Then there's you ...

Well definitely my music always plays much better-or it's more popular-where there's a beachfront. Like that big place in Sydney where played. Or at Coachella [California], an outdoor festival, during the day. It seems like [the music] translates well in those situations. Maybe that's 'cause I love California and living

Again, most of my pals, those who travel around a lot, bring your music wherever they go. That's actually how I discovered "It's You, It's Me" in late 2002. I mean, it's still around and it still sounds great.

Sure, it's 5 years old and people are still singing it. That's definitely what I try to do with my music. I try and write melodies and lyrics that can stick with people.

Come on, I'm feeling everything

How did you react when you found out people in the Philippines actually dug your

I was surprised! It's always crazy to me how far and wide the music can reach and spread. I mean, I've traveled to many places that I would've never have an idea that my music had

Do you customize your playlist for the audience? Or do you have a standard one?

Not necessarily. That's part of the art of being

Winging it?

Yeah. You see what [the audience is] vibing too: www.myspace.com/kaskademusic.

off of and you work with that. Most of the time I nail it but there are definitely some times that I'm not really sure what they want. I don't think they know what they want! (laughs)

lt's you, it's me, it's him

Do you play a lot of your own tracks at your gigs?

Yeah, I play a lot of my own music. I think because I write and produce so much of my own music that people come to the show expecting me to play some of my music. When I first started out, I thought it was a little self-induigent to play my own music but I realized that people actually come to the show ...

Expecting to hear your stuffl

Yeah. I think with the Internet, my music's gone out there and people show up and they don't know that I'm a DJ. They just know my songs and they expect to see a band or some sort of live performance. Like a ten-piece band or something. And I'm like, nah, I'm just a DJ. If my music spreads more to those kinds of people (who get the impression I'm a band) it's important for me to convey my sound in my DJ set. I kinda need to play my own tracks. So any tips for aspiring/wannabe DJs,

like, uhm, me? Keep with it. Stick to it. If you love it, keep

at it. It will come. Presented by Dunhill. Special thanks to Superfly, O Music, Preview Magazine, and PHM. For more info, hit up www.kaskademusic.com. Vall can ask him to add you,

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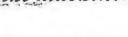
an a come OM-OMG **Raskade** shares some really, really good



OUSE MUSIC JUNKIES-THOSE with a default weekend state of mind-have called his tunes the soundtrack to the soul. The wealth of beats, inspirational loops, and sunny-side-up vibes have made San Francisco producer and DJ Kaskade, well, the shizzle.

He was born Ryan Raddon in Chicago, but close buds started calling him Kaskade and it stuck. This subsequent DJ moniker suited his style nicely, evoking spanking beaches and laidback basslines. Breaking out in post-glowstick 2003 with the still-superb gem "It's You, It's Me," Kaskade has since rolled with dancefloor deities like Ben Watt, Marques Wyatt, and Roger Sanchez.

Age against the machine



Gino de la Paz 🏃 Balancing the otherworldliness of his trade-

mark sound with his flop-flop-friendly nature, Kaskade recently reeled into the Philippines to give us kids a totally sweet sunrise session. Super! caught up with him before his pre-Easter gig at the Coconut Palace and powwowed about meeting peeps on MySpace, life in the global party pipeline, and these strange round things called records.

I read somewhere that you started building your vinyl collection in the '80s. What was the first record you bought?

I bought my first record in 1985 and the reason I remember that was 'cause I wasn't old enough to drive. I didn't have my license yet. I was 15 and my mom drove me to the record stores, which was a big deal back then. And I bought a few records, but the first house music record I bought, I think, was called "The Flight" It wasn't a famous record at all.

Yeah. Never heard of that. So what's the running total new?

My [music] collection is huge. Somewhere

around 10,000.

All vinyl or do you have CDs as well?

Now I've been using CDs a lot more in my performances just because I travel so much. It makes it easier to lug more music around, but that's only pretty recent with me. I've been exdusively [using] vinyl for years and years [before that].

Bedroom D

DJing inspired you to make music. Did you ever take lessons?

I was a bedroom DJ for years. I started playing records in '85 and I had a couple OK gigs in the early '90s but then I really didn't do it as a profession. I didn't actually make money, like, get paid, until 1995. That was my first paying

How did you learn the technical aspects? I'm taking lessons now and it's kinda hard to cue a vinyl record. CDs are way easier.

I was just self-taught. In the studio, it was the same thing, I just started buying more and more gear and taught myself how to use it. I didn't have any formal training. The only formal music training I had was I was in choir in high school. You know, for four years.

And that helped?

Yeah, sure. Of course. You know, you can write music and read it a little bit. But I mean, I don't really rely on that very much. (laughs)

Home bass !

You've lived everywhere from suburban Chicago to the University of Utah. Moving from the cradle of house music to, uhm, the mountains, can you describe the house mu-

sic scene in Salt Lake City circa 1992? Pretty much nonexistent! It was very small. There were a few guys who had moved to Salt Lake for university or for whatever reason. One guy had moved from New York and another from San Francisco-just a couple guys who were collecting records at that time.

Whoa. Have you gone back ever since? How has it changed?

I go back and play shows a couple times a year. Sait Lake's awesome! It's a great place; I love it there, I miss it sometimes. I miss the mountains for sure! But it's good now. They have like more clubs there that are packed and they fly people in. I hear it's a great party place, in an alter-

native, Mormon way, What's SLC (Salt Lake City) like now? How are the curfews? They stop serving at 1 a.m. California stops

at 2. New York is 4 a.m.

